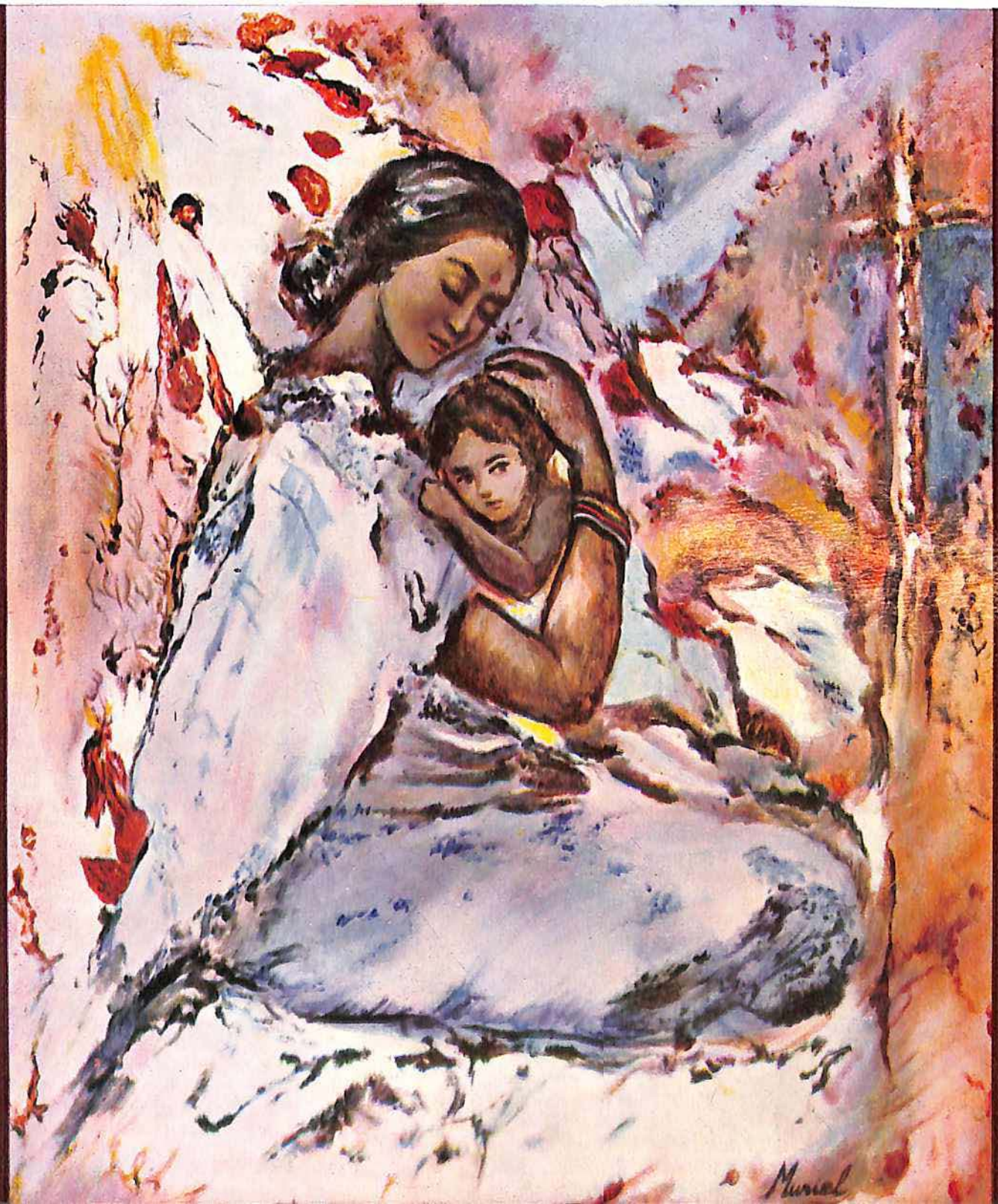
CARING FOR THE FUTURE

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE (INDIA)

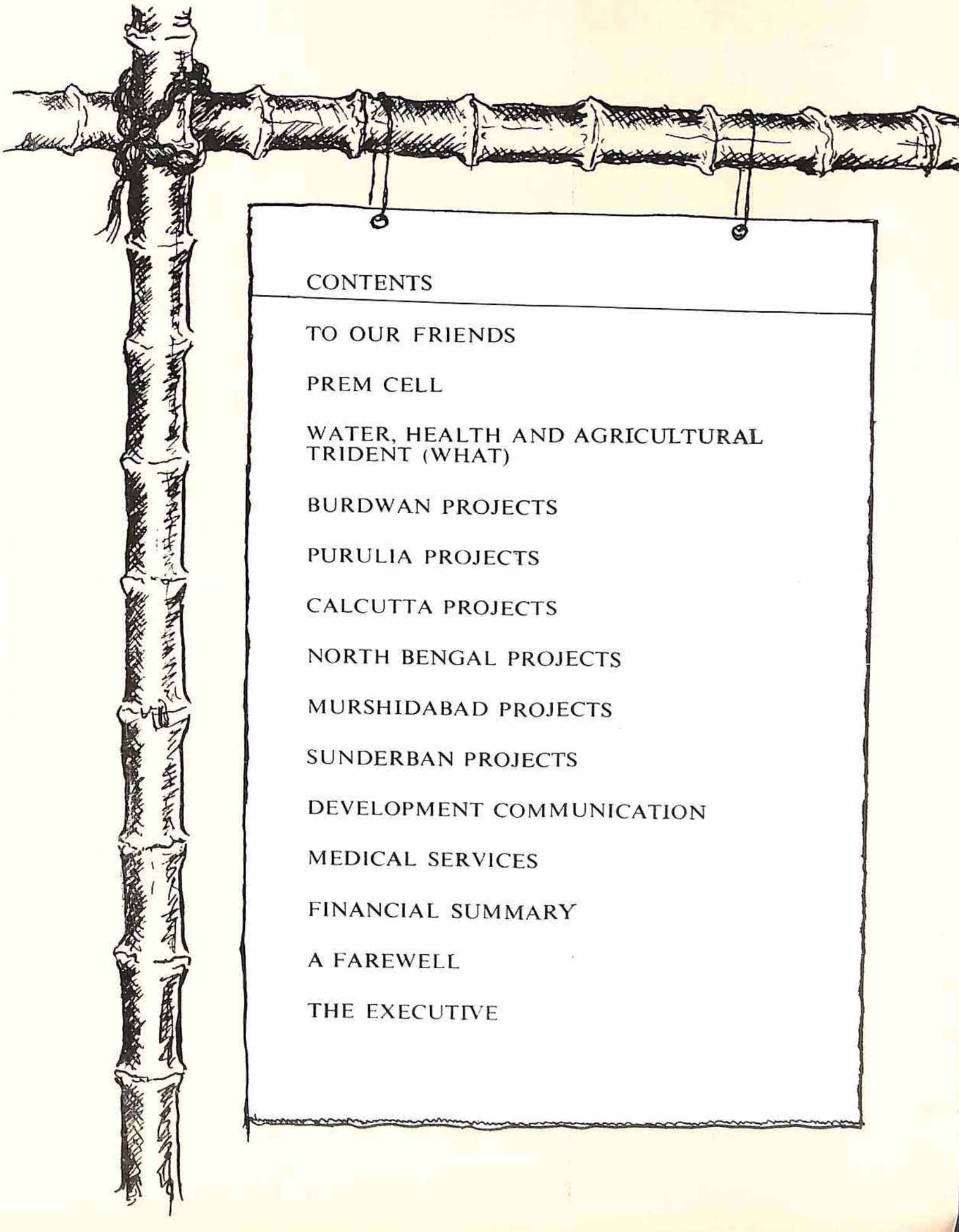
ANNUAL REPORT 1982



Annual Report 1982

Lutheran World Service (India)

3, Hungerford Street, Calcutta-700017
Phones : 44-0710/44-8979/43-1492
Cable : LUTHSERVIS
Telex : 21 3245 LWSI IN



CONTENTS

TO OUR FRIENDS

PREM CELL

WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL TRIDENT (WHAT)

BURDWAN PROJECTS

PURULIA PROJECTS

CALCUTTA PROJECTS

NORTH BENGAL PROJECTS

MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS

SUNDERBAN PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A FAREWELL

THE EXECUTIVE

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE
(INDIA)

CARING FOR THE FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 1982

To Our Friends . . .

The theme for our 1982 Annual Report is "Caring for the Future". The starting point for caring for the future is obviously caring for the present. One of the most common words used in Bengali is, "kalkay" which means "tomorrow". "Kalkay" seems to be the philosophy of life of many people. Why put yourself out today when there is always tomorrow? Such a philosophy strikes at the very root of caring for the future.

The account of the seven-year old boy's story that serves as an introduction to the Calcutta Programme, is significant. Had responsible persons cared in time, the young boy might today have lived.

Caring for the future really means caring for today. . . .not just by making plans and discussing preventive measures to be taken, but by putting into action today the urgency of such strategies. For life is short and we cannot pretend that there is no urgency. The speed with which we act today will bring forward or regress the realisation of our dreams and hopes, the better future we envisage for ourselves, our neighbours, our country and mankind. Whatever we invest in our programmes far and wide, materially and otherwise, is an investment in the future. Our 1982 Annual report summarises these investments. We will continue to bring the same care and responsible stewardship to each days work in the service of the less fortunate and trust their future to His care.

Our thanks go out to all those who have assisted us in caring for the future. . . .our Donors, the Government, our headquarters in Geneva. We must also extend our thanks to the people we work among and assisting local Agencies, without whose cooperation it would be impossible to care for the future. We realise that the people must finally shoulder the responsibilities of their future on their own. It has been our privilege to help them discover the possibilities to do so.

I end with a few words from the Bible: "And God Himself has said that one must love not only God, but his brother too" (I John 4:21).

January, 1983

OLAV HODNE

.....towards a brighter tomorrow

PREM (PLANNING, RESEARCH, EVALUATION & MONITORING) CELL

- The PREM Cell which is an Advisory Body to the Management of the LWS in India retained the same external members as in 1981.

- The first meeting of the PREM Cell for the year was held on March 11, 1982 when it was decided to evaluate the following projects:

  — Water Resources Project (latter half of 1982 this Project expanded into Water, Health and Agricultural Trident—WHAT)

  — Development Communication Unit

  — Salt Lake Housing Resettlement Project (Appraisal only)

  — Sunderban Projects (Appraisal only)

  The evaluation of the Water Resources Project was completed by mid 1982 as scheduled and the Development Communication Unit by end November, 1982. The appraisal of Salt Lake Housing Resettlement Project was completed before the end of the year. However, the report was not made available during 1982. The appraisal of Sunderban Projects on the other hand, was kept in abeyance since the project had not taken off the ground as originally envisaged.

- LWS Projects were evaluated by PREM Cell members only, since the constitution of the PREM Cell, in 1979. However, during the year under review, the composition of the teams for evaluation/appraisal of the projects also included members from other Institutions. For instance, the Water Resources Project Evaluation team included a member from Action for Food Production (AFPRO), who are specialists in Water Development. Furthermore, in order to build up and improve the internal planning, monitoring and review systems within each programme (originally conceived as one of the objectives of the PREM Cell), a few members of the LWS also participated in the evaluations.

- The PREM Cell members met on October 22, 1982 when the draft Statement of Needs for 1984 was reviewed and endorsed. One of the issues which came up for discussion was the question of the LWS' attempt to assist the weaker sections to become self-reliant within a time frame. It was recognised by all the Members that the LWS in India is a non-permanent organisation. Furthermore, the LWS apart from promoting self-reliance among individuals, fosters self-reliant communities, through the building up of Peoples' Organisations.

- A DANIDA Mission visited the LWS projects in West Bengal during the period from December 6 to 21, 1981 to review the programmes and make recommendations for continued DANIDA assistance to the programme. The members of the Mission consisted of three persons from DANIDA, one each from Danchurchaid and LWS (India) and one member recommended by the Government of West Bengal. A report prepared by the Review Mission was made available in April, 1982.

External Members

Dr. Prodipto Roy
Sociologist
Development Research Communication Group, Post Box 998
Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr. B. N. Mukherjee
Senior Professor
Computer Science Division
Indian Statistical Institute
Calcutta.

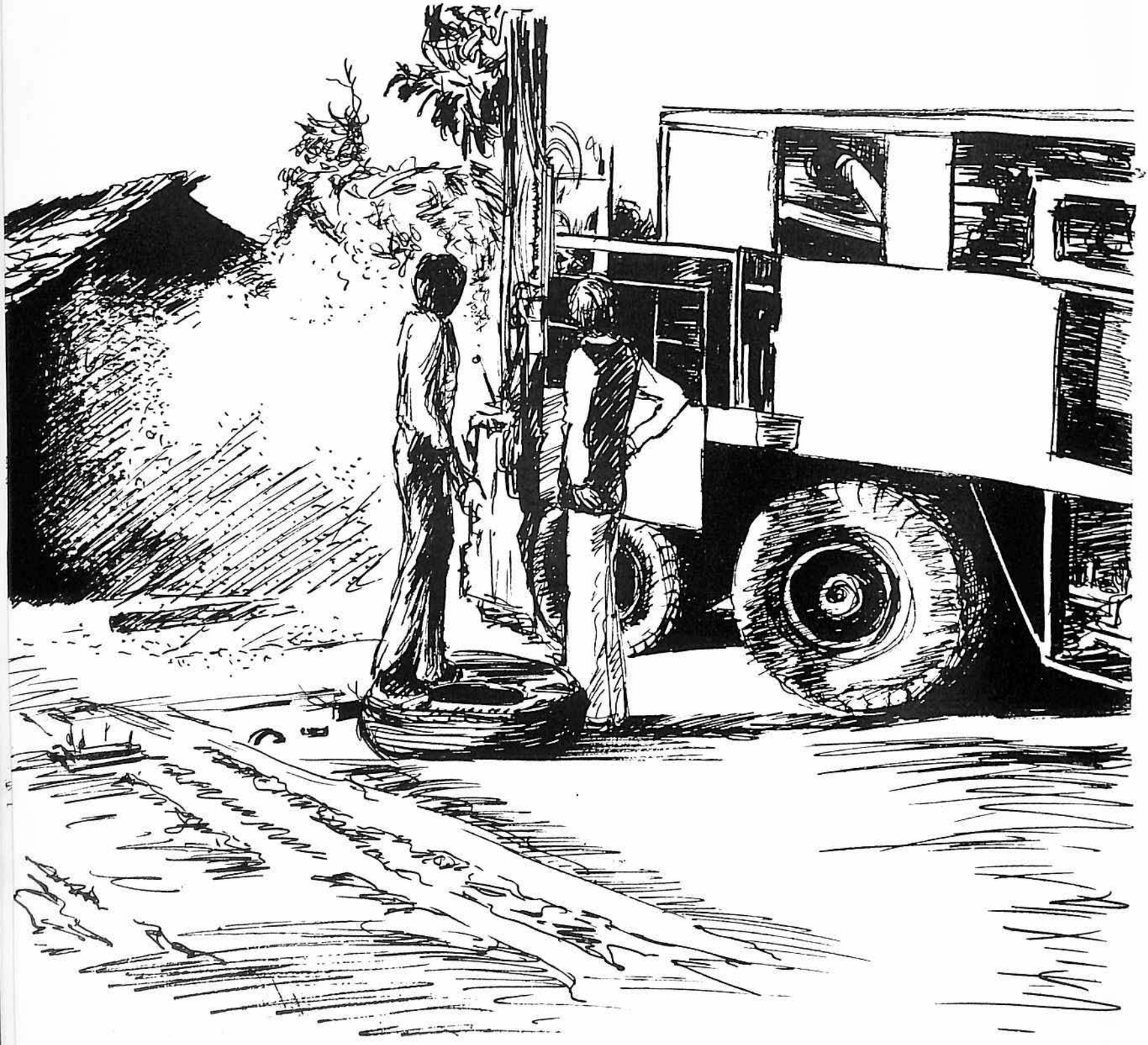
Dr. Jatin De
Senior Research Fellow
Council for Social Development
New Delhi.

Mr. S. K. Chakraborty, IAS (Retd.)
Adviser
Rural Development Consortium
Calcutta.

Dr. Helen Gideon
Consultant and Adviser
Medical Programme.

Dr. D. C. Sarkar
Hony. Sericulture Adviser
Calcutta.

Mr. S. J. Nathan
Member Secretary
LWS/India.



Water—the spring of life ! The drilling rig moves into the Water Decade bringing water even to the remotest village.

WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL TRIDENT (WHAT)

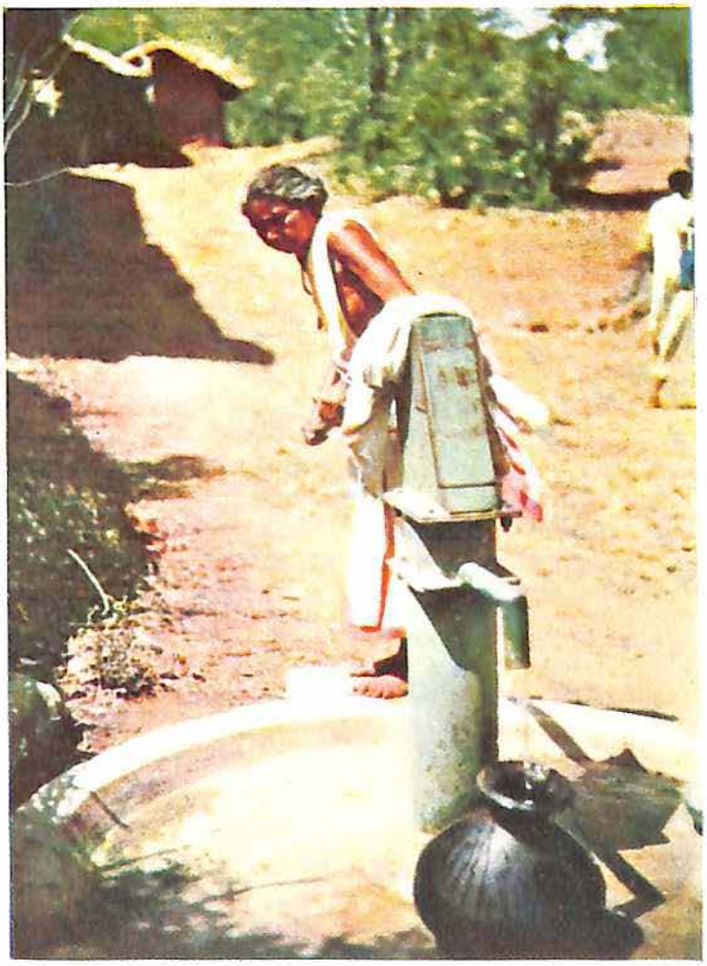
Water Resources Project (WRP)

For the LWS the end of 1982 marked a little over half a decade of service in drilling. Together with the State Government(s) the focus of the WRP was on supply of safe drinking water in areas where drought had become a common phenomenon and the terrain rocky in nature. The WRP drilled a little over 1,100 borewells out of which 43 were drilled for irrigation purposes during the period from mid 1977 to end 1982. The WRP operation started in Purulia district with the provision of one drilling rig, and thereafter, on procurement of two more rigs during subsequent years, expanded its operation to other areas of need.

In between the drilling operation, a few members of the three units rendered nominal extension services, which included training in repairs and maintenance of tubewells, motivation in terms of utilisation of waste water for kitchen gardening and the importance of safe drinking water to minimize water borne diseases.

Details of Activities

The activities of WRP were first launched by mid 1977 in the district of Purulia. The list of sites for drilling were prepared by the local administrative Body in consultation with the people and referred to the district level committee. Thereafter, the Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) and the LWS determined the number of bores each could drill. The post drilling expenditure for all the wells successfully drilled by the LWS were taken care of by the PHED. The people participated in a few activities connected with the operation—such as provision of water for flushing the bores while drilling, accommodation for the drilling crew and building of



"A weapon to tame the parched land"

approach roads where needed, to enable the truck-mounted rig to reach the drilling site. A total of 104 wells were successfully drilled during 1982 at an average depth of 108 feet and in-well drilling was undertaken in 4 wells. The people have taken up kitchen gardening in a number of villages. During the drought, several villages were in distress for want of water. The WRP used its facilities to transport water to a number of villages in Neturia Block for nearly 45 days.

Purulia district in the course of the last few years acquired a total of over 3,600 hand operated tubewells as a result of drilling undertaken by the PHED and the LWS. However, regular repairs and maintenance of these tubewells in recent years, have posed a problem, due to inadequate maintenance squads available with the PHED. The WRP had conducted two mini-training courses on repairs and maintenance of tubewells. An evaluation of the WRP operations completed in 1982 suggested that the LWS should shift its emphasis from mere drilling to remedial drilling and should focus its attention on supplementing the Government repairs and maintenance efforts, by creating village level infrastructures for this purpose. During the latter part of 1982 a survey was therefore conducted in a block which had a large number of tubewells. Different training models are being studied in order to work out a suitable training programme.

The district of Birbhum in West Bengal State was included in the areas of operation during the last week of May, 1982. A survey conducted by the Government revealed that 1,103 villages with a population of nearly 900,000 were termed 'problem villages'. (A village is considered to be a problem, if a drinking water source lies 1·6 kms away from the village, or if no water is available within a depth of 50 feet, or if it is endemic to cholera and guinea worm infections, or if the water contains excessive salinity, iron and fluoride.)

A villager discusses the problems of repairs and maintenance of tubewells with a staff member.

Apart from the villages officially declared as problem villages there were many other villages which had more or less the same problem in respect of safe drinking water, but since these were not classified as 'problem villages', the PHED could not serve their needs. Therefore, at the request of the district authorities and with the approval of the State Government, the LWS started its work in Birbhum district.

Villages for boring wells were selected in consultation with the Panchayat members and the villagers participated in selection of the sites for drilling. People were found participative and there had been no problem of caste or creed in using a single source of water. The district authorities on the other hand, supplied casing pipes, in addition to meeting all post drilling expenditures for installation, construction of platforms around the tubewells and maintenance. Guidance for extension services was forthcoming from the Government officials from time to time.

During the seven months operation in Birbhum a total of 77 borewells were successfully drilled at an average depth of 115 feet, benefiting 13,860 people. In addition, in-well drilling in an open well was successfully carried out. Groundnut cultivation, experimented upon in a village, received positive response. Fifteen farmers in the village were organised to use a small portion of their land to cultivate groundnut, when the paddy crops failed, due to the prevailing drought situation. Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides worth Rs.850, to cover an acreage of 1·5, were provided through the village committee, with an understanding, that those whose land holdings were up to 2·5 acres would be required to return 50 percent of the value of assistance and others having land holdings between 2·5 to 5 acres would be required to return 60 percent of the value. The farmers

who were hesitant at the beginning, upon successful harvesting of groundnut, decided to bring more acreage under groundnut cultivation. 79 families in 10 villages were also assisted with 4,700 vegetable seedlings, which were the product of a nursery established on land available in the field office area.

August 1980 was the starting point of WRP operation in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa State, when the State Government requested the LWS to undertake an emergency programme for drought relief. From the beginning of 1981 normal WRP operation was initiated with a view to boring drinking water wells in the areas of need. Similar service was extended for a short while to the tornado affected people of Keonjhar district, adjacent to Mayurbhanj.

The Public Health Department (PHD) provided casing pipes and met all the post-drilling expenditures related to installation and maintenance of pumps and platforms.

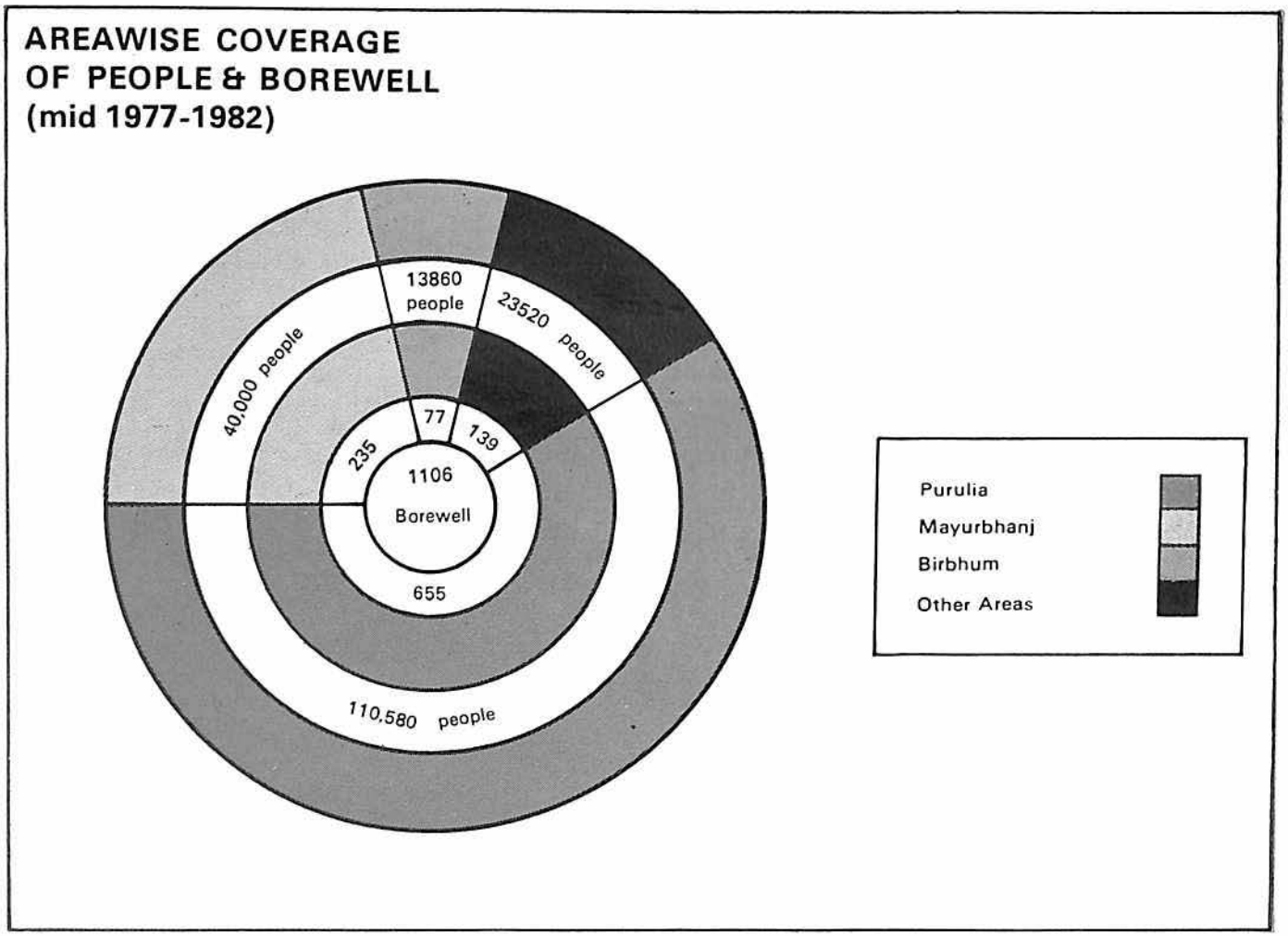
A total of 78 borewells were successfully drilled during the year under review at an average depth of 122 feet. A small farmer in a village was approached to use his open well to experiment with drilling inside the well. Though he was initially reluctant, he finally agreed. As a result the water level in the well which used to be only 5 feet increased to 15 feet. The farmer, encouraged by the result grew vegetables on his neighbouring land. With the additional income, he thus earned, he purchased a bullock-cart.

A water source—a unifying point in the village

WRP PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

1. 1982

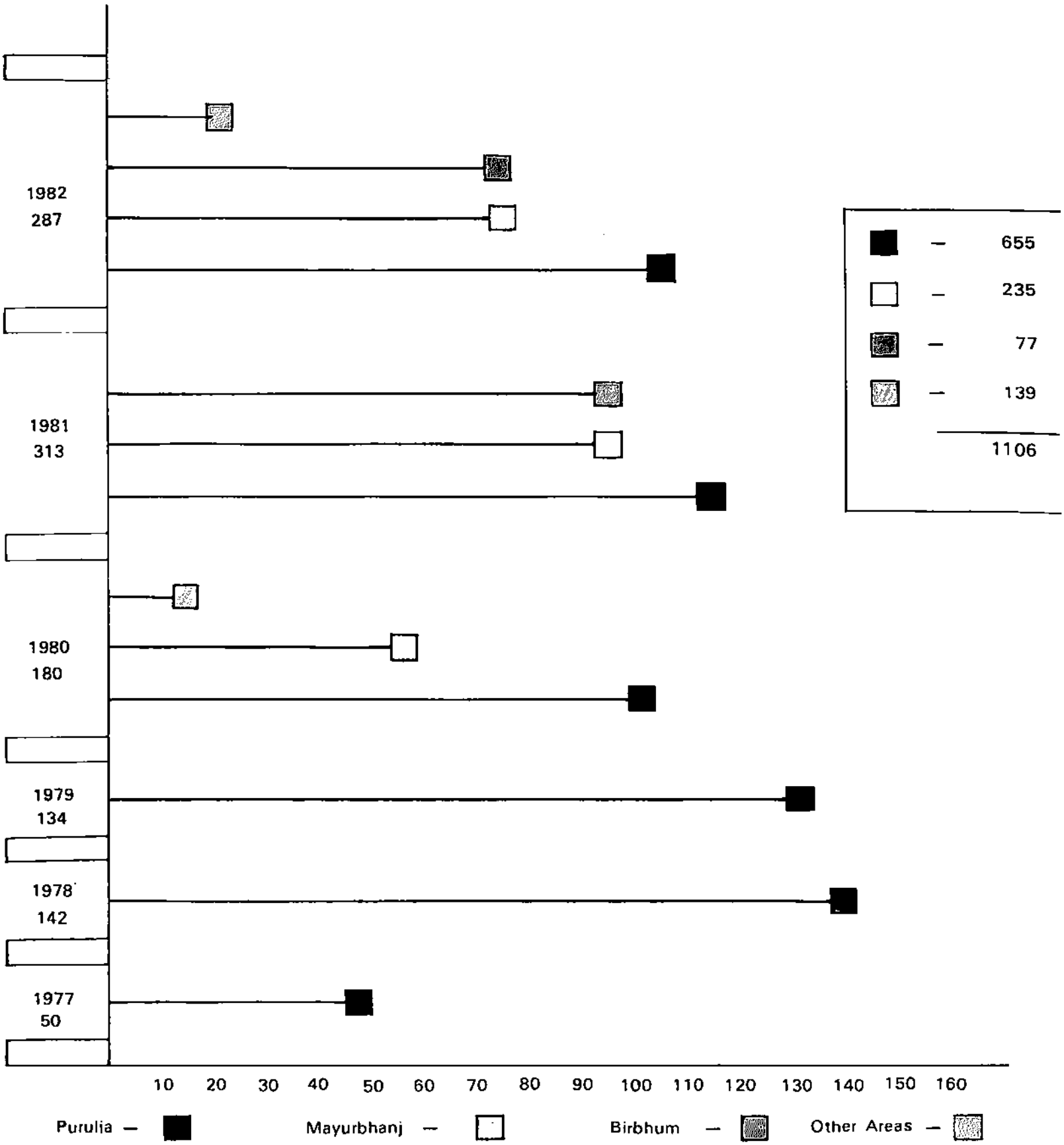
Area	No. of successful bores	Average depth	People covered	Average cost per tubewell (Rupees)	Participation in Percent		
					People	Govt.	LWS
Purulia	108	108′	15,980	6,849	1	36	63
Mayurbhanj	78	122′	13,860	13,040	1	29	70
Birbhum	77	115′	13,860	9,704	1	31	68
Other Areas	24	127′	4,140	10,886	12	6	82
	287		47,840	9,852	2	29	69



2. From mid 1977-1982

Year	Purulia	Mayurbhanj	Birbhum	Other areas	Total	People covered
1977	50	—	—	—	50	5,000
1978	142	—	—	—	142	22,000
1979	134	—	—	—	134	28,000
1980	104	59	—	17	180	29,820
1981	117	98	—	98	313	55,300
1982	108	78	77	24	287	47,840
	655	235	77	139	1,106	1,87,960

BORE WELLS—YEAR AND AREAWISE



"Thirsting for the greens"

Water, Health and Agricultural Trident (WHAT)

The WRP has so far concentrated upon supply of drinking water, which is considered basically a welfare measure. However, the impact of such provision though not measurable, has according to people in the villages and doctors of the primary health clinics, been very significant. Apart from reducing incidence of water borne and related diseases, women folk do not need to walk long distances especially in the hot summer months in search of water. Having acquired over the years enough experience in this technical venture, it was realised at the beginning of 1982, that the all round experience gained could be consolidated by combining what had been learnt in tapping underground water, with the strengths and weaknesses of development programme activities undertaken. The scope of the Water Resources Project, therefore, expanded to include the aspects of health, agriculture and exploitation of both surface and underground water. Hence in the middle of 1982, Project WHAT (Water, Health and Agricultural Trident) emerged.

Project WHAT aims at conjunctive use of both surface and underground water for improving agriculture and health. A consultative approach in planning and implementation is crucial to the project. So is the water-shed basis approach, which is being adopted and which will be the guiding factor for spatial planning.

With this in the background, preparatory work has been initiated in Bandwan block of Purulia district and Jamda and Bijoytola blocks of Mayurbhanj district. These areas were selected in consultation with the local Government authorities because of their relative low levels of agricultural production, irrigation infrastructure, literacy rates and general levels of development. An important factor in the selection of these blocks as well as clusters of villages where the programme is being initiated, is that the topography, type of soil and prevailing agricultural technology, are major constraints in creation of irrigation facilities.

In accordance with the indicated areas of need, the LWS plans, within the frame of the first phase of approximately 3½ years period, to implement programmes especially in the fields of drinking water supply, irrigation including soil conservation and forestry, development of agricultural production and crafts and trades, functional adult education, as well as health activities. Through these programmes the LWS intends to reach particularly small and marginal farmers and landless people.

While the LWS considers the indicated sectoral programmes to correspond to the needs of the areas, it is not possible and intentionally avoided at this stage, to formulate specific schemes in detail. The LWS while observing the stipulated sectoral priorities, consider it necessary to formulate detailed measures only during actual implementation. In this way, the LWS wishes to ensure that the establishment of specific local needs as well as defining of concrete measures will be decided by the village communities themselves through self-government authorities (Panchayats) or local self-help groups. It is thus intended to create conditions for maximum participation of the village population by avoiding detailed programming. A certain flexibility is also retained in regard to programme adaption and corrections during implementation. The process of local planning and participation (while observing sectoral focal points) is thus an essential programme component. Project WHAT will, therefore, be in a state of planning even during the implementation process since its magnitude is related to people's articulation of their needs.

Details of Activities:

An overall planning and monitoring team, with one member from PREM Cell, one from AFPRO (specialists in water development) and four from the LWS was established. After a reconnaisance survey and discussions with the Government officials the team prepared a project outline for submission to the respective Governments. Thereafter, the first six months of the programme (July—December) was confined to the initial phase of preparatory work which included, placement of suitable personnel in the project areas, formation of a survey team to facilitate technical water-shed planning (both of which are still incomplete). Activities also included various meetings with the project personnel to ensure that everyone involved in this project understand the conceptual framework and the objectives of the project.

Other preparatory work included:

- A preliminary meeting held at the district level of Purulia district to introduce Project WHAT in Bandwan block. Thereafter another meeting was held in November at the programme level in Bandwan when representatives from the Government, Panchayat and the LWS discussed at length the concept of the project and the approaches to be adopted. Concrete suggestions emerged from the meeting, apart from establishment of a Coordination Body at the programme level, with representatives from the Government, Panchayat and the LWS, to ensure effective planning and implementation of the programme with people's involvement as well as proper coordination so as to avoid any duplication and overlapping of activities.

- Action for Food Production (AFPRO) deputed three of their specialists to undertake geohydrological survey in order to identify a few water-sheds. AFPRO team is still attached to the LWS and are in the process of training a survey team of the LWS.

- The LWS team in Mayurbhanj district initiated a process of identification with the people in Jamda villages. During the process the team members encouraged the people to organise several meetings in the villages and played the role of an animator, which resulted in formation of adhoc committees in 15 villages.

One kitchen garden-cum-demonstration farm for practical training was established in Harijan and Adivasi Seva Ashram (Scheduled Castes and Tribals Service Centre) of Government High School with the help of the tribal boarders. The students were given training in theory and practice with a view to enabling them to acquire sound knowledge in agricultural methods, so that such learning could be put to practical use in their villages.

With resource mobilisation of 48 percent from the people, 46 percent from the Government and 6 percent from the LWS, 5,300 fruit plants were made available for social forestry scheme.

Farmers of five villages expressed their desire to multiply seeds for redistribution during the next cycle of operation. A total of 213 farmers were able to cultivate 302 acres upon provision of seeds and/or fertilizers.

35 percent of agricultural loan of Rs. 5,500 provided for monsoon crop cultivation was returned by the farmers to the village committees, who deposited the amount in a Bank for recycling in future.

The activities outlined above are a prelude to 1983 planning for short-term activities.

"Green vegetables are good for health"

How Much do We Care ?

On the outskirts of Rairangpur Subdivisional town of Mayurbhanj district, 52 leper families had been living in a colony, without any source of drinking water. On enquiry during a reconnaisance survey it was found that they had been and still are treated as untouchables by others. They were careful not to draw water in the broad daylight from the tank which lay some distance away, for fear of incurring the displeasure of the people. They were forced to draw their water requirements in the middle of the night. Therefore, when the LWS responded to their need by providing a tubewell inside their colony, it dramatically changed their situation. Not only could they draw water at any time of the day, but they could do so without any fear. The water was used initially for washing, drinking and cooking. However, later, with the guidance of the social workers they were encouraged to cultivate kitchen gardens. Under the Extension Service Programme, seeds and saplings were provided.

All the families were immensely enthusiastic. They cultivated every bit of land available by growing fruit trees and vegetables and reaped a rich harvest, in excess of the colony's requirements. The families rejoiced and hoped to find an outlet to sell the excess produce which could bring them a good income. But their hopes were killed almost instantaneously. For who was there to buy what lepers had to sell ?....They approached some vendors to market their surplus discreetly. But not even throw-away prices offered could induce them to do so.

One leper, withered and decrepit confided, "We are blessed with the tubewell that provides us with water and our gardens with fruits and vegetables. People are careful to keep away from us....but we have each other to care for."

BURDWAN PROJECTS

Like many other parts of West Bengal, Jangal Mahal region experienced one of the most severe droughts in recent memory. The farmers lost 50 percent of their monsoon crop. Without employment the poor found it extremely difficult to get a square meal a day.

The development activities in the forty-two villages, which have an entirely agrarian population of nearly 12,000, were unable to keep pace with the targets originally conceived. The farmers who were on the verge of independent cultivation were faced with the discouraging loss of standing crops, caused by severe drought, following sporadic and inadequate rainfall. For the same reason, farmers who were dependent on farm labour in neighbouring areas secured far lesser employment than in previous years.

With a view to increasing production, augmenting family income, and improving the quality of life, the project activities initiated in the operational area were grouped as follows:

- agriculture and allied activities
- health services
- improving skills and knowledge through formal and non-formal education and training
- opening up avenues for subsidiary occupation

Preparing the ground for cultivation.

The major impediment in meeting the food requirement of the target population was that the people did not possess adequate agricultural land. Efforts had, therefore, been directed towards encouraging the people to bring under cultivation fallow land as well as effectively utilise the available land by raising

multiple crops. With this in view, during the year under review, the LWS laid emphasis on:

- creation of irrigation facilities
- assistance to people to improve land either in their possession or made available by the Government
- consolidating the improved agricultural practices by provision of needed inputs
- encouraging self reliance by introducing a policy of "No Free Service"

Priority was given to increasing the irrigation facilities through construction of small dams, excavation of tanks, setting up of small lift-irrigation schemes where suitable and sinking of shallow tubewells where other methods did not appear to be feasible. A total of 110 acres of land was thus provided with an assured supply of irrigation water during 1982.

The next priority of improving land suffered a set back because of the severe drought situation. However, ten acres owned by twelve families was converted into agricultural land. Another seventy acres of land owned by other families was referred to the respective Block Development Officers for consideration.

The initial plan to cover more land under high yielding varieties during the monsoon period did not materialise owing to inconsistant and inadequate rainfall. Therefore, only 150 acres were covered successfully.

Small lift-irrigation scheme

Women transplanting paddy

In spite of the severe drought, the LWS received positive response from the people as partners in development.

Upon successful harvesting, the farmers concerned had returned food grains to the village committee(s) equivalent to the amount of seeds given for sowing. The farmers who had assured irrigation sources, paid the village committee(s) the operating cost of pumps, as they were interested in setting up a common fund which could be ploughed back into the village.

During 1981 the farmers were assisted with 3,000 kgs. of potato seeds with an understanding that they would return the same quantity to the village committees. As of December, 1982 they had returned 2,600 kgs. of potato seeds.

The tribals of village Chhora in their very first meeting in 1982 expressed their need for lifting canal water which flowed at a lower level across the 33 acres which was given to them by the Government, to the agricultural fields which lay at a higher level. This land required lift-irrigation even during the normal monsoon season. After several deliberations with the farmers and appropriate technical personnel of the Damodar Valley Corporation, it was decided to install pump sets for lift-irrigation. The fund advanced by the LWS to meet the operational cost of the pump sets was collected by the people themselves after the harvest. By the end of the year they had deposited Rs. 1,000 either in kind or cash and the entire amount of Rs. 3,200 was expected to be realised and deposited in the Bank for future use.

A couple of years ago, 29 acres of upland, owned by 34 tribal families of Amjoruli village grew only paddy under rainfed conditions. The yield was poor. An irrigation well was constructed in 1980, but winter crops hardly thrived. In 1981 a village tank was re-excavated and ten acres were cultivated during winter season. During 1982, cultivation had been extended to 17 acres of winter crop and 3 acres of summer paddy. Distribution of seeds to this village during the year was much less (500 grams of

mustard seed only) compared to 1981 when a total of 151 kgs. of potato, wheat, mustard seeds were provided. The reason was that they were able to meet their requirements by themselves. Furthermore, during 1982, in spite of the drought situation, farmers of Amjoruli harvested a normal crop of paddy from all the 29 acres of land since an assured source of irrigation was available from the newly constructed irrigation dam.

The villagers who raised a common development fund of Rs. 1,200 opened a Bank Account under the name and style of 'Amjoruli Gram Unnayan Samity (Amjoruli Village Development Society).

Three families had applied for installation of biogas plants by taking loans from a Bank. Five villagers have opened individual bank accounts in 1982. 66 percent of the village children between 6 and 14 years of age are attending the village school regularly.

One cannot say that whatever has been happening in Amjoruli has been repeated in all the other villages. There are some villages where the building up of a self-supportive attitude leaves alot to be desired. However, in many places one can sense that some changes are gradually taking place. This is evident from the fact that people do talk about their rights and ask for resource building programmes. There has been a transformation from the initial hostility and distrust to a stage of awareness and realisation of the need for self-dependence.

Jangal Mahal is one of the programme areas where the LWS is aiming to reach a professional standard of community health care. The doctor who attended a course in Community Health and Development, leads a group consisting of two trained health workers and three Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives (ANMs). A central clinic operates at the main centre situated at Bheledanga and mobile village clinics function at regular intervals. In addition field visits are made at scheduled intervals in the different villages. The area has been divided into an intensive care area (five villages with a population of 1,150) and a twilight area (nine villages). Almost all the health problems of the intensive care area have been identified and many of them have been significantly reduced.

In an effort to promote village crafts and meaningful utilisation of available skills, first group of trained boys and girls from the tailoring and weaving training centres were assisted to establish themselves. Five girls trained in tailoring were supplied with sewing machines at depreciated cost. These girls started using the skills acquired but their earnings so far do not add substantially to the family income. They have yet to put their skills to better use so they can enhance their income. However, efforts are continuing to encourage them to have joint, economically viable propositions. The boys in the weaving centre are yet to acquire proficiency in weaving. Five boys who have almost completed their training are expected to set up their own production unit to manufacture cheap towels, lungies and sarees.

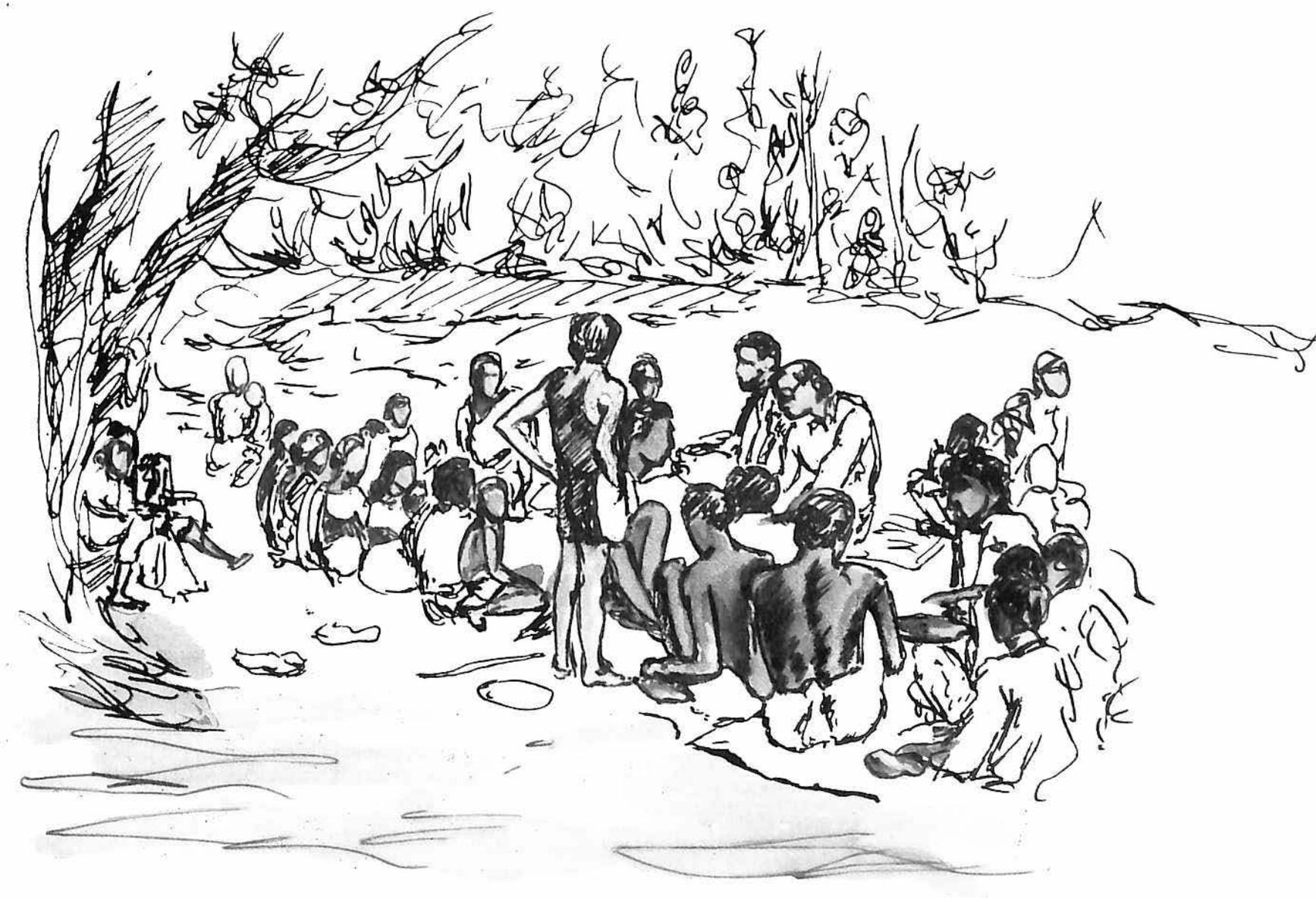
On an experimental basis rice husking was introduced as a subsidiary occupation. This met with mixed success. Some people were benefited from this project and are continuing with this business, but others due to various factors could not continue. The general feeling, however, was that the rice husking could be a meaningful programme for some families. The idea was to set up a revolving fund from which people could take loans without interest for starting small income generating schemes. If such schemes were successful, it was proposed to refer them to rural Banks for obtaining further support.

Activities centering around beekeeping were being reorganised to make the project economically viable. Accordingly five people were selected by the villagers who would be given

five boxes each on loan to start collecting honey for which a ready market was available at Durgapur Industrial Complex.

The Government during the year assisted 329 families of Jangal Mahal with 144 acres of land. With this the total land available for agricultural purposes rose from 904 to 1,048 acres of land, of which, 69 percent (725 acres) was brought under cultivation.

In order to derive tangible results, quarterly meetings were held at Bheledanga when the Block Development Officers, Panchayat members, representative of the local Bank and key field personnel of the LWS attended. During these meetings the programme planning and performance were reviewed and future programming discussed. These meetings proved effective, with the LWS acting on several occasions as a liaising agent, between the people, the Government and the Bank.



Dialogue with the people

Mr. A. K. Sen, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal at the formal handing over function

PURULIA PROJECTS

On April 1, 1982 the LWS formally handed over the projects implemented in Ajodhya Hills and the adjacent plain areas of Balarampur to the West Bengal State Government. The Medical Services including the Health Clinic situated in Ajodhya Hills were handed over to the Health Department of the State Government; the remaining projects were handed over to the West Bengal Comprehensive Area Development Corporation (CADC).

During a function held to mark this occasion, the Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Mr. A. K. Sen, commended the role played by the LWS at Ajodhya Hills, describing the work undertaken as an "impossible task". He denied the allegation that the projects of the LWS in West Bengal were going to be stopped by the taking over of the Ajodhya Hills Programme. He added, that there were 50 Voluntary Organisations working in the State of West Bengal. He stated that work done by them, as a matter of fact, should have been the responsibility of the Government. But it was not possible for the Government to undertake all the work by itself. Therefore, responsibility for some portion of the work was given to these Voluntary Organisations to shoulder. After working in certain areas for 5 or 7 years, these Organisations handed over their responsibilities back to the Government and moved on to other areas. He said, this was the case with the LWS as well.

The Executive Vice-Chairman of the CADC, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, in his address said that this organisation was implementing a project at Saharjor at the foot of Ajodhya Hills. It was not, therefore, difficult for them to take over the responsibility of the LWS projects at Ajodhya Hills. He added that the CADC, had been implementing twenty projects in different areas of West Bengal and Ajodhya Hills would be the twenty-first project. Echoing the sentiments expressed by Dr. Hodne, Dr. Dasgupta said that they were taking charge of their new responsibility with a feeling of love and good will towards the tribals.

The Zilla Parishad President, Mr. Swapan Banerjee while welcoming the decision of the State Government pledged to work wholeheartedly for the upliftment of tribals at Ajodhya Hills.

It is gratifying to note that the programmes taken over by the CADC and the Health Department were continued during the year under review. It is further gratifying to note that the development activities will continue in these areas for some more years to come by which time, it is hoped, that the region would become self-supporting.

A review shows that:

- Exploitation of the tribals by money-lenders and by rich farmers which was maximum was practically nil at the time of LWS' withdrawal.
- The literacy rate had gone up from less than 2 percent to 20·75 percent.
- Medical facilities which never existed previously were available with the establishment of a Health Centre supported by 11 trained local tribals who were engaged in Community Health Work.
- The area changed from mono-cropping to multiple-cropping.
- More than 30 percent of fallow land had been brought under cultivation and a total of nearly 4,150 acres were being cultivated.
- All the 78 villages in the region with a population of nearly 8,000 derived benefit from development activities.
- All the villages have been connected with roads constructed under Food-for-Work Projects.
- The region which had no trained personnel in agriculture, bee-keeping, health work, pisciculture, adult literacy, livestock etc. had, at the time of withdrawal, a total of 168 tribals trained in the following:

Agriculture	38
Bee-keeping	26
Pisciculture	11
Livestock	13
Adult Literacy	32
Community Health Work	11
Others	37
Total	168

However, the most important development which had taken place in Ajodhya Hills during the years of service had been the evolvement and establishment of "Ajodhya Pahar Adibasi Unnayan Sangha" (Ajodhya Hills Tribal Development Society) which had been accorded Government recognition in 1981. During the last two years of service, the LWS continued to pay more attention to strengthening this Society. The Society was involved in planning and implementation of several projects. Furthermore, the Society started building up their own capital and undertook certain projects on their own.

The CADC and the Health Department apart from taking responsibility for continuation of the projects retained in employment a total of 36 personnel who were till then in employment with the LWS.

During the first three months of the year under review, the Health Clinic attended to 10,000 patients and covered 2,200 people in 14 villages under Community Health care.

Seventy people in 20 villages derived benefit with the provision of vegetable seeds to cultivate 10 acres. 8 people who were trained in bee-keeping were assisted with 8 bee-boxes.

In Balarampur region, on the other hand, the LWS formally withdrew from the area on completion of the Baradalia irrigation project as a result of which, 35 families, with an acreage of 200, were assured water for irrigation. 3,000 people in 15 villages of Balarampur were also treated for various ailments.

The Ajodhya Hills Tribal Development Society during the first three months of operation was able to reach 92 farmers in 45 villages to cultivate 86 acres of paddy; 14 farmers in 8 villages to cultivate 8 acres of mixed cropping and another 60 farmers in 32 villages to cultivate maize on 21 acres.

The Bandwan Project area was formally merged with the LWS Project WHAT in the latter half of 1982. In the meantime, work at the Bhusan Bera Jore bundh site was in progress which, on completion, would enable 50 farmers to irrigate 100 acres of land. Due to non-availability of cement, work on three irrigation wells could not be completed. In the agricultural sector, 281 farmers could cultivate paddy on 105 acres, 291 farmers wheat on 71 acres and 45 farmers could cultivate groundnut on 10 acres. The farmers who were assisted with seeds during the previous year were able to return 1,000 kgs. of paddy to the village committees, as agreed.

The transformation which has come to Ajodhya Hills has been gradually achieved over the last seven years. Seen in retrospect are the spectres of isolation, deprivation, ill-health, low level of literacy, lack of self-confidence, fear and dependence on money lenders that plagued the tribals in the recent past. Today they have come into their own—by virtue of collective action—assiduous development of their land, bringing economic gains and freedom from dependency on money lenders and impoverishment of the body, mind and spirit—a new regard for the quality of life—pursuit of knowledge and its application to daily needs—a new pride in themselves—an awareness of their potentials for growth and development.

Bringing to an end this report on Ajodhya Hills, an extract from a Feature Article brought out on 'Purulia' in mid-1982, to mark the handing-over to the Government, is reproduced, as a fitting tribute to those responsible for the development of Ajodhya:

"Taking their destiny in their own hands"

"We take this opportunity to thank the State Government, the District Administration, our Headquarters in Geneva and the donor agencies without whose support, collaboration and encouragement, it would not have been possible for the Lutheran World Service to accomplish whatever has been achieved during the past 7 years.

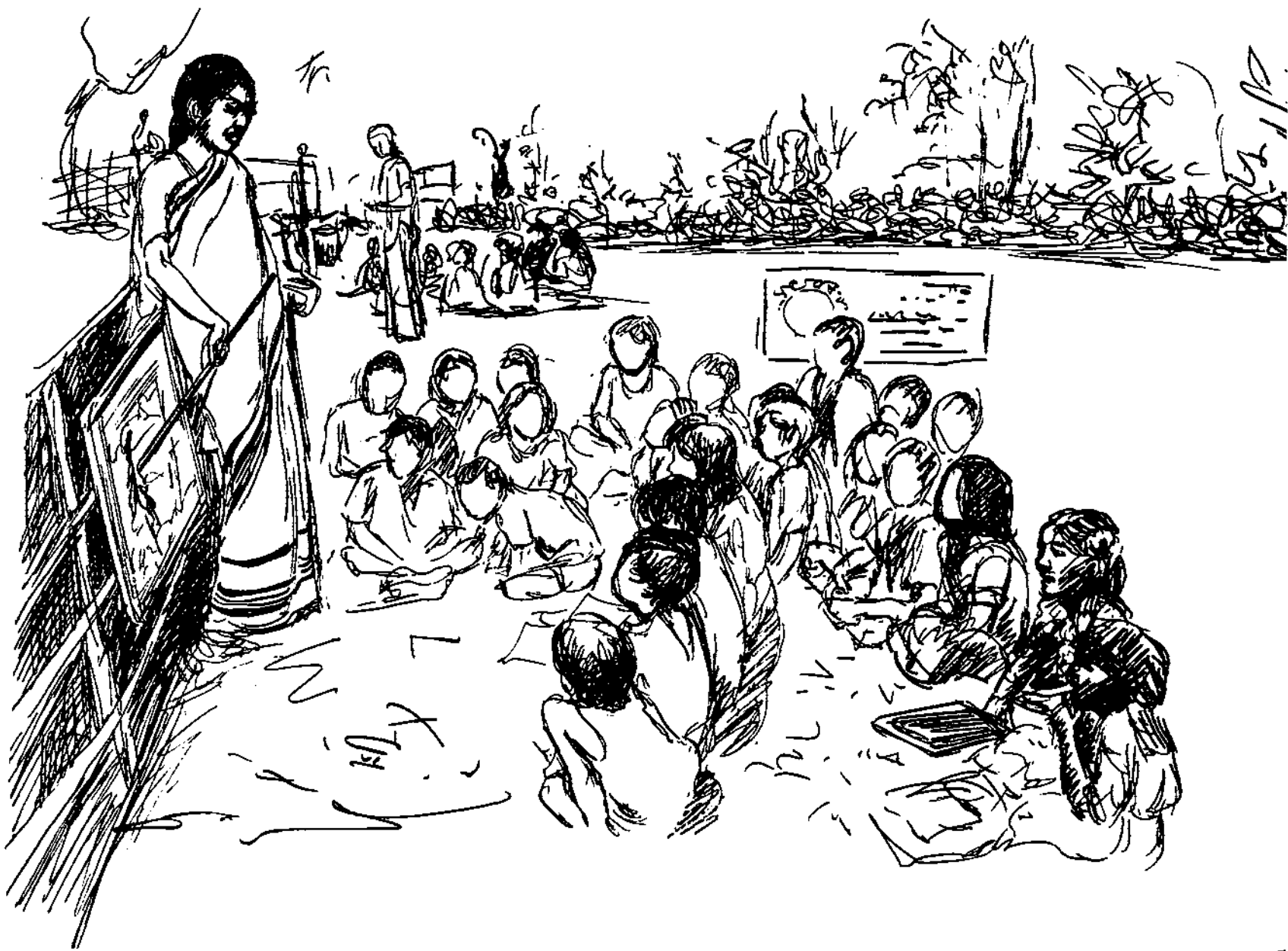
Our love and thanks reach out most especially to the tribals among whom we were privileged to work, primarily because of their receptivity and willing partnership in development. In the last analysis the task of moving forward and taking their destiny in their own hands lies with them. We wish them the very best in their courageous effort which we hope and trust will be guided by the vision of an enlightened leadership.

—Olav Hodne, Director"

CALCUTTA PROJECTS

"The charred body of a seven year old boy was found inside a heap of burning garbage on a street of Calcutta. The boy apparently fell asleep while warming himself beside the burning heap..... He was stated to be a street urchin." (—'The Statesman,' dated January 26, 1983).

The seven year old boy who was burnt alive in a garbage fire would not have gone in search of warmth if someone had cared for him and given him a home perhaps, where he would have found all the warmth he needed. He epitomises the desperate condition of the 200,000 who live on the dusty pavements and canal embankments, so gravely in need of rejuvinating warmth and love to shield them against the cold unfriendly winds that blow, eroding their very existance....the painful recognition that they are the deprived, uncared for, the unwanted....the knowledge that it is a matter of indifference whether they exist or not....or how could such callousness permit a child to burn from hunger, cold and want, beside a garbage heap ? We ask the all important question, "Wasn't there anyone who cared ?"....



Whatever is done in this great city of Calcutta to rehabilitate the pavement dwellers on the outskirts of the city is hardly enough....there are thousands more to be reached, to be helped to a better life. And there are those who resist change....who will not re-style their street life existance for any promises of a better life.... how are those to be reached ? Perhaps by persistant persuasion and the establishment of recognisable models which could serve to demonstrate a workable alternative. The attempts of the Calcutta Projects to bring education, vocational training, health, sanitation, shelter and counselling to the pavement dwellers is just one small step in that direction.

Education is an essential input for the development of human resources. Therefore, Janashiksha Prochar Kendra, (Centre for Mass Education) a Social Institution, committed to eradicate illiteracy with the support of the LWS imparted non-formal education to the boys and girls of pavement dwelling families through its centres spread in 29 sectors of Calcutta. During 1982 the total roll strength was 1569 with an average attendance of 69 percent. Upon attaining elementary education, 64 of the students obtained admission in recognised formal educational institutions. Since inception, a total of 7,190 boys and girls received elementary education.

The same Institution during the year conducted night classes in ten sectors and imparted adult non-formal education to a total of 239 adults of which 60 percent were women.

The LWS has established two centres in Entally and Ultadanga. Among other activities, these centres impart education from Classes I to IV for boys and girls dwelling on the pavements, canal embankments and in squatters' colonies. During 1982 a total of 650 students were on roll (250 in Entally and 400 in Ultadanga) with an average attendance of 84 percent. Since inception, a total of 966 students have completed their primary education.

Batik products find on outlet in local and export markets

A kindergarten school established in the Salt Lake Housing Resettlement area had a strength of 45 children.

Keeping in mind the aptitude of the boys and girls, vocational training is provided in Entally and Ultadanga centres as well as in Salt Lake Housing Resettlement Programme. In addition, Karma Kutir, a local Institution, imparting training to girls in batik and tie and dye, is also supported by the LWS. During 1982 a total of 532 were under training. Since inception, 759 boys and girls were given training as below in batik, tailoring, weaving, needle work and embroidery, toy and chalk making, wood-work, block printing, hand weaving and electronics:

Vocational Training Centre	Under Training	Trained	Employed
Entally	150	252	162
Entally Extension Area	96	—	—
Ultadanga	146	273	273
Garcha	50	123	99
Salt Lake	90	111	50
Total	532	759	584

Out of the 584 boys and girls employed (accounts for 77 percent of the total number trained), 111 were employed by industries/institutions, 235 started home industries and the remaining 238 joined self-employment centres.

Entally and Ultadanga centres have a Self-Employment Centre each with a Sales Emporium attached to each

Block printing at Ultadanga Complex

Panbagan Bustee Comes to Life.....

It never lasted for long....in a few hours I had only ashes to fan. My coal fire "chula" over which I roasted badams (groundnuts) early each afternoon, so often died out just as the children were streaming out from the school nearby and would stop to buy badams on their way home. I had so few badams to sell....naturally the children bought from other vendors. The coal my husband brought home was of poor quality. With little money to feed ourselves how could we buy better coal ? Those were bad days. My husband was without a job. My eldest son managed to sell newspapers and he earned Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a day on which we had to survive.

"Come with me Deviji....you must have heard about LWS. They have their Centre close by. There is a school there too. So many poor children get admission. Let us also try for our children."

LWS Entally Complex became the life centre of our Panbagan Bustee ....so many new things were happening since it started. My children too were admitted. One of my daughters is now a trainee in the Weaving Section and my son is studying in the Infant Section. The LWS arranged a loan of Rs. 100 for me from a Bank in 1981. I started selling vegetables and earned Rs. 200 per month. I repaid the loan in installments of Rs. 10 per month. In 1982 the Bank granted me a further loan of Rs. 200. My husband helps me to sell the vegetables. We now earn Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 a month. We are keeping a little aside every month for our daughter's marriage. We hope she will find some work in the Self Employment Centre when she finishes her training. The future is not as frightening as before, we can talk about it when we sit together at meals....and greet each new day with courage when we rise.

centre. These two centres are registered under the Government of West Bengal Societies Act and are on the look out for suitable premises outside the LWS Complexes at Entally and Ultadanga, where they can function independently.

During 1982 the two Sales Emporiums marketed products to the tune of Rs. 698,974·57 (approximately US$ 82,250) as given below, of which 44 percent comprised export trade:

1982	In Rupees
Entally	388,310·21
Ultadanga	310,664·36
	698,974·57
Previous years	
Entally	479,710·79
Ultadanga	600,937·70
	1,080,648·49

Since inception, the trained boys and girls, who joined the Self-Employment Centres marketed through their Sales Emporiums goods worth Rs. 1,779,623 (approximately US $ 209,375), of which export earnings account for 17 percent of the total sale.

The LWS continues to play a catalystic role in the extension areas of Entally and Ultadanga with a view to assisting the people residing in 19 squatters' colonies to obtain bank loans.

The recipients of bank loans include skilled, semi-skilled, newly trained and unskilled workers. The loans obtained generate income through self-employment. During 1982 the Bank had given loans to the tune of Rs. 257,575. In previous years a total sum of Rs. 1,362,558 was given by the Bank as loans. The loans thus given, since inception, amounts to Rs. 1,620,133. Information available from the extension areas reveal that the recovery of loan had been satisfactory.

A night shelter at Ultadanga takes in some of the pavement dwellers who otherwise would have spent many an uncomfortable night on the pavements of Calcutta. Some of the 70 men and 70 women night shelterers at this Centre, make garments for sale in the day time with the aid of the few sewing machines kept at their disposal. Thus a dual purpose of both welfare and income generation is served by this night shelter scheme. Attached to each wing of the night shelters there are bathing places, latrines and water facilities. Store rooms have been arranged where the shelterers can leave their belongings in the safe custody of the attendants of the night shelters. Community beddings with tarpaulin, hassain cloth sheets and mosquito nets have also been provided for them.

In the Salt Lake Housing Resettlement programme taken up in collaboration with the State Government, 66 houses were constructed during 1982 in order to provide permanent shelter for canal embankment dwellers. Since inception, a total of 816 houses have been constructed and 738 families are residing in the houses allotted to them.

Apart from providing permanent shelter for canal embankment dwellers in Salt Lake, other basic amenities were also supplied as detailed below:

Tubewells for drinking water

Previous Years	162
1982	5
Total	167

Sanitary Latrines

Previous Years	750
1982	66
Total	816

In addition to the above, the Government had constructed a primary school, market sheds, roads and a drainage system.

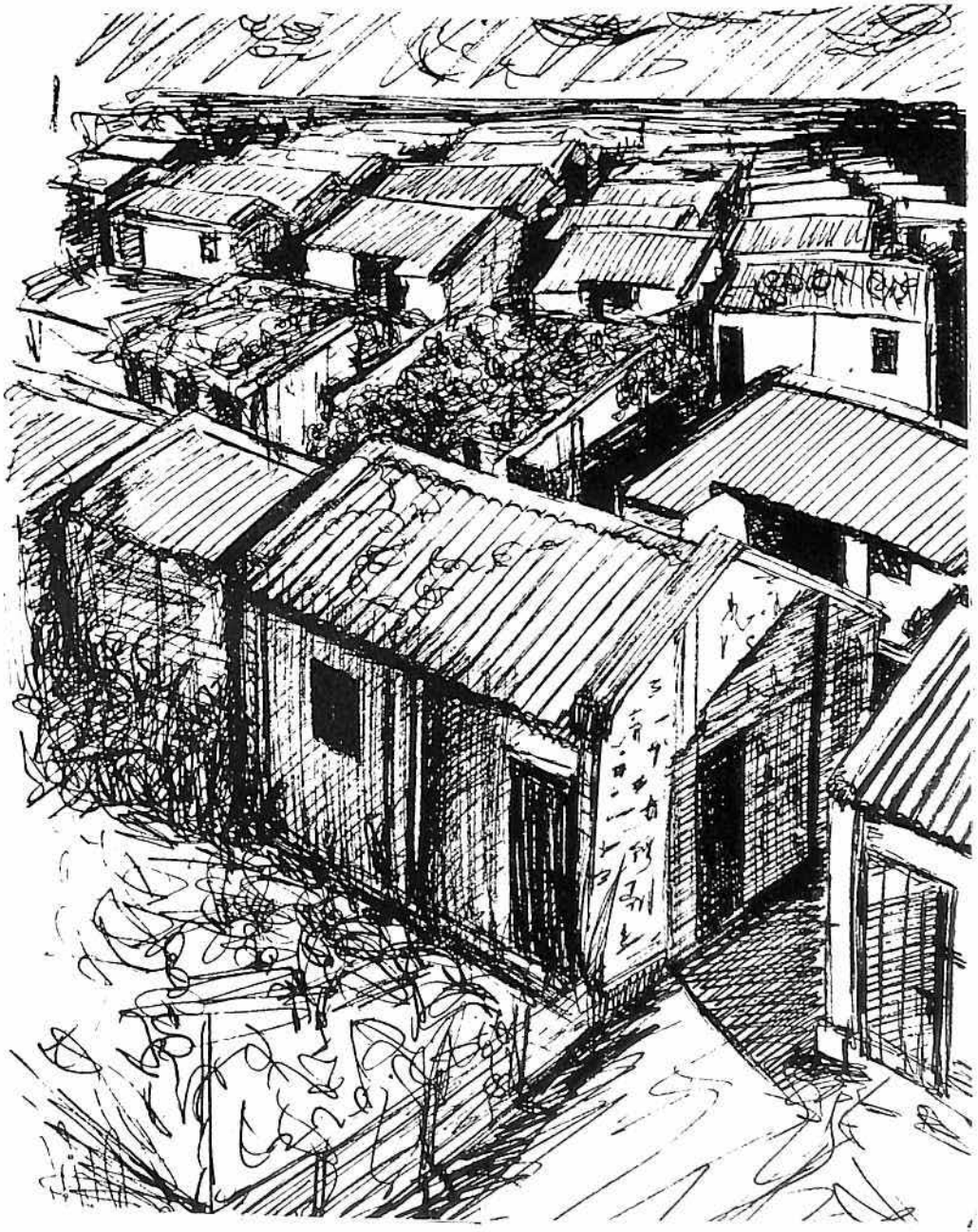
The need for an effective people's Body in this Resettlement Colony was increasingly felt by the people and the LWS from the very beginning. A people's Organisation is an immediate need to protect the interest of the common people and ultimately assist them in achieving self-reliance. Since the occupation of the houses did not take place for all the families simultaneously, an elected Body of the people was slow in emerging. However, since the need for such a Body was strongly felt, a series of discussions between the project staff and the people of Sukantanagar Colony took place soon after Phase I resettlement began. A number of obstacles stemming from group factionalism prevented a Committee being formed. In the meantime an adhoc Body called Sukantanagar Abasam Samity was formed in December, 1981 and is yet in existence. Since inter-group rivalry is still rife, the project staff had taken some measures through Community Health services to organise the women folk of the Colony who possibly can play a vital role in the process of development as well as in the formation of an effective Council of their own. Several meetings with the people indicate, that despite group rivalry, the emergence of a representative Body of the people is imminent, which should promote the interests of the people of Sukantanagar Colony.

In other areas of Calcutta Projects a total of 20 tubewells were sunk during 1982, thereby bringing the total number of tubewells sunk, since inception, to 549.

The health activities which primarily constitute curative, preventive and promotive services, centre around the following areas:

	Intensive Coverage
Salt Lake	5,500
Ultadanga	6,500
Entally	10,000
Total	22,000

An overview of the health activities is given under the section "Medical Services".



Salt Lake Housing Colony

In the quiet of her home a woman spends fruitful hours spinning yarn on her hand-loom

NORTH BENGAL PROJECTS

Before LWS activities began in 1974, the region was served by the Lutheran World Federation/Department of World Service through the Cooch Behar Refugee Service. Since 1974, the people of the area have been assisted by LWS with a famine emergency programme, followed by resettlement, sericulture programmes and follow-up activities in the resettled colonies, with a view to increasing the level of income of the poorest people. The achievement of this objective, it was felt, would in turn bring about social development. With this in view, nearly 8,200 landless and homeless agricultural labourers and refugees were resettled in 213 clusters, on land given by the State Government. Provision of safe drinking water was assured by sinking over 1,200 tubewells. In order to increase the literacy rate among school going children, nearly 80 primary schools were built. The literacy rate among the adults increased by 15 percent as a result of Adult Literacy Centres established in the resettled colonies. Nearly 3,000 families benefited from individual self-help and another 600 families from the sericulture programme. These families were able to meet most of their basic needs from their own income sources.

The sericulture programme has picked up greater momentum in the areas where mulberry was not traditionally cultivated. Both Central and State Governments in recognition of this fact are creating sericulture institutions and have placed three senior level officers to assist the programme. They have also set up a demonstration farm on 34 acres of land in order to promote and intensify the programme.

During the year under review the following activities relating to sericulture were pursued:

- A total acreage of 11·32 acres benefiting 33 people was brought under mulberry cultivation.
- 43 families were benefited by distribution of 800 kgs. of green cocoon.
- 116 farmers were able to rear silkworms as a result of 13,300 disease free layings distributed.
- 7 families derived benefit from provision of materials for mulberry cultivation and construction of rearing house and weaving centre.
- Kalabari Sericulture Centre with 1·66 acres of mulberry plantation and a rearing house having a capacity to rear 200 disease free layings were handed over to the people.
- Madharihat sericulture and ericulture project with 1·33 acres of mulberry garden and seri and eri-silk worm rearing houses were handed over to the people. Putimari Sericulture Centre with a rearing house was also handed over to the people.
- Sariam sericulture demonstration centre became an independent Body on formation of a Society—Jalpaiguri Kutir Silpa Unnayan Samiti.

Growing vegetables the colony way! A roof does not provide shelter only, but food as well.

Kismatsultanpur

One has to cross over paddy fields after leaving the horse cart road to approach Kismatsultanpur Colony in Malda District, North Bengal. Row upon row of houses, separated into two clusters of forty and twenty each, stand staunchily amidst the green fields. Every inch of the spare land surrounding the little houses has been used to grow vegetables and fruit trees. Even the roof tops are spilling over with vegetable creepers. The front yards are kept spotlessly clean. Pigs, goats and fowl and an occasional cow are part of the rural scene.

Tribals and refugees live in this colony. Some have changed the roofing pattern of the houses to suit their needs. Several tribals have pulled down the mat-walls and rebuilt their houses with mud instead. Watching them sitting on mats in the front yard of one of the houses one could easily single out Rabi Khora, a young man of about thirty, as their leader. He spoke with a quiet dignity . . . . "We cannot complain about life. We had no houses. Now we have a house each. We have received other help too. From here on it is our challenge. We are facing it. You see, we are surviving aren't we?"

"What do the colony people do for a living?"

"Our women-folk are engaged in basket-making, kitchen-gardening and domestic work. As we have no land, during agriculture season we work for other landowners. There are fishermen too in the village. During the off-season we go out of the State in search of work. We work as road construction labourers and in brick kilns."

"Who takes you out ?"

A chant goes up, "Rabi."

Rabi explains, "I am illiterate but many major contractors from Lucknow to Gauhati know me. When we have no work here, we go to those places. But come back normally during agriculture season usually with some extra money in our pockets."

"Labour headmen like you are known to exploit labourers under them ?"

"There may be some. But these are my own people. If I exploit them where will I go ? Next season they will not accompany me. I lead them. I look after their interests at their work sites. I get a commission for every head of labour I supply but that does not come from their wages. If they lose faith in me, they will stop coming with me. I lose and the

people lose."

His neighbours sitting around him nod their heads in agreement.

"Do only the tribals accompany you ?"

"No. Both tribals and non-tribals go with me."

"What have you done with your savings ?"

"My wife has left me. I have no children. Only my mother to look after. So I have managed to buy nearly 3 acres of land."

Others sitting around, "Rabi is not like us. He has a small family, so he can save better."

"What else is new in the village ?"

People together, "We have a problem about latrines."

"What is the problem ?"

Rabi explains, "The paddy fields you see all around us are owned by other villagers. Our women and children go to relieve themselves in the fields. Owners of the fields naturally do not like that. They abuse us. Everyday there are quarrels. If we had a few latrines the problem would have been solved. Can you help us?"

The villagers volunteered their labour free of cost and even promised to make bricks to construct the latrines, if mud could be brought from elsewhere for the purpose.

"We will make bricks. Tell us how many bricks are needed. Every one of the sixty families will try to make bricks during spare time. Some of us have necessary implements. We need the latrines and we are ready to work for them."

The village had another problem. The paths leading to the main road and between the two clusters of houses were in bad shape. They decided to get the paths repaired and offered to accept lower wages as part of their contribution. But interference came from people with vested interest. They advised, "It is an LWS project and you are fools not to demand more money. Why don't you ask for more?"

But these courageous people stood their ground, "It is our road, we are going to use it and not LWS staff. Even if we decide to do the work free of cost, why should anyone bother?" We are glad LWS is helping us to build our own road."

This little community of families who were alloted the 60 houses constructed in 1980 were landless labourers, 95 percent of them being illiterate. Especially in the context of LWS' proposed withdrawal in 1984 from the area, the people evince a clear understanding that ultimately they must learn to fend for themselves. Their determined efforts to withstand opposition by remaining united as one community, augers well for a future in which they seem to be investing wisely and with care. However, much more remains to be done in the area of finding local work for the men during the off-season so they do not have to leave home in search of work.

Remarkable progress in sericulture has been achieved by the small and marginal farmers during the year under review. Farmers have evinced keen interest in developing mulberry plantations and rearing of silk worms.

In the field of eri-culture, Chhakamari Handloom Cooperative Society was assisted to repair the weaving house and looms. In another area ericulture was introduced by provision of castor seeds, erimoth eggs, ten looms and spinning machines. A total of 21 families derived benefit from this programme.

In a remote area of a region in North Bengal, a group of 20 farmers owned collectively 20 acres of unproductive land. This land could not be used for paddy cultivation due to sandy soil and lack of irrigation facilities. Despite owning 20 acres of land they had to work as agricultural labourers and during off-season they were unemployed. After a series of discussions, the farmers formed a society of their own in the year 1980 which received recognition from the Government and medicinal plant cultivation was taken up on the follow land. A distillation plant was installed and citronella java grass cultivated. Since then, they have been able to extract oil regularly. During the year under review, 100 litres of oil were extracted. Introduction of the project in an area where land was sandy and nothing used to grow, is a boon in itself.

Community self-help projects which were taken up over the years in the colonies as a follow-up measure, have greatly enhanced the people's income.

During the year under review a total of 3,164 families were assisted as per details given below:

Battle For Life

Shasti Haldar is a fisherman, of Panjipara Colony of West Dinajpur district. He had a small boat which was completely beyond repair. LWS assisted him with a new boat. He manages to pull in a catch of 3 to 4 kgs of small fish which fetches him about Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 a day. He was saving to buy a new boat in anticipation of the day when his present boat would become unusable. He also hoped to lease some land. But misfortune befell him. He was bedridden with pneumonia for four months of the year. All his savings went into his medical treatment. His family took care of the vegetables that he grew in the backyard. They managed to earn Rs. 50 from the sale of ridge gourds after taking care of their own consumption.

"Who looked after your family when you were bedridden?"

Battling upstream for his daily catch

Shasti silently points to his thirteen year old son Krishna. And Krishna says proudly, "I did. I used to catch fish throughout the day. Of course I could not catch as much fish as my father."

"Didn't you go to school?"

"I gave up school to assist father. But now I go to the night school being conducted by LWS".

	Coverage	
	Unit	Families
Agriculture including kitchen garden	50 acres	1,314
Social Forestry	7,025 saplings	1,403
Individual self help (petty business etc.)	—	174
Piglets	112	69
Goats	236	95
Cows	9	6
Poultry birds	75	11
Weaving	2 centres	82
Tailoring	2 centres	10
Other activities		
Houses	59	
Tubewells	49	
Open Wells	7	
Primary Schools	4	
Culverts	4	
Community Halls	2	
Open wells with persian wheels	2	

The LWS is scheduled to phase out its programme in North Bengal by the middle of 1984. The programme during 1982 has been implemented in keeping with the phasing out plans.

Poised for another blow—the smithy labours to earn a living under a self-help project

MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS

Floods and erosion caused by the Padma flowing along the north-eastern boundary of Murshidabad district over a period of years, created an emergent need for relief for the thousands of people who were rendered destitute as a result. LWS responded to the State Government's call for assistance in July, 1975 by starting a feeding programme for these unfortunate people, and a nutrition programme for children, nursing and expectant mothers.

Service to such victims of floods and erosion developed into wider spheres of activities when people in need were cared for. These people were given a new lease of life when they found they could build up their own homes and a new society in order to engage themselves fruitfully in gainful avocations. The State Government invited the LWS to collaborate in rehabilitating the landless/homeless agricultural labourers and refugees. During the period from 1976 to 1980 efforts were concentrated on building up infrastructure services within the housing colonies, that were coming up, on land provided by the Government. For instance, one tubewell was provided for every ten families. 48 housing resettlement colonies in Murshidabad district and 4 in Nadia district came into existence and 4,258 families with a population of nearly 20,000 were resettled. Consequently more responsibilities devolved on the housing colonies as a natural sequence of the development process. During 1982, the LWS continued its follow-up activities in the settlement Colonies with a view to assisting the people in building up a viable future.

Each settlement has a committee or a registered society of its own. The programme area is divided into eight zones with about six settlements falling in each zone. At the zonal level the people have an elected Body called Zonal Committee and at the project office level an Apex or Programme Consultative Committee composed of representatives of the Zonal Committees.

The Apex Consultative Committee is responsible for examining the project proposals before submitting the proposals to the LWS. The Committee is further responsible to review the project planning schedule and performance besides giving advice on matters of common interest. Thus all the Committees, at all levels, and the Societies, function on democratic lines, ensuring thereby, participation of the colony people for planning and implementation of the projects.

The infrastructural measures undertaken during 1982 were :

		Participation (in percentage)		
		LWS	People	Government
Tubewells	43	92	6	2
Approach Roads	6	58	12	30
Primary Schools	6	67	33	. .
Sanitary latrines	244	56	44	—

Other development activities included:

- Mulberry cultivation and rearing of silkworms, undertaken on 3 acres of land at Debagram and Mirzapur Colonies. There were 4/5 rearings a year during low temperature periods from November to March. Silk reeling and weaving benefited 500 people in these colonies.

- Rearing of eri/endi-worms, spinning and weaving of eri-yarns was undertaken in 14 centres and benefited 135 people. Women folk were mainly engaged in this occupation. The spun yarn is purchased by the Self Employment Centre and a texture called endi-cot is woven and sold. Experiments are being made for production of a new texture with an admixture of endi and mulberry silk yarn and with admixture of endi/nylon yarns. The production of these textures is being done by Colony weavers under the supervision of the Mirzapur Society.

Women spinning eri-yarn

- Training in production of 'Gamcha' (towel) and 'Lungi' (wrap-around garment) is being given to Scheduled Caste girls of Mirzapur Colony under a Government Scheme sponsored by the Department of Youth Services of the State Government. Two girls of Raghunathganj Self Employment Centre are also being trained in production of Gamchas and Lungies.

Blanket weaver at Talai Colony

- 48 people were provided with bee-boxes to take up bee-keeping. Bee-keeping training (Epiculture) has been imparted to 18 colony residents.

- Palm-fibre production is going on at Shaikhdighi, Ahiron and Debagram Colonies and the trained hands of these colonies have executed an order for products valued at Rs. 7,000.

- Pisciculture in 13 tanks (12 acres) covers 5,000 people.

- At Debagram and Noapara, seasonal vegetables have been cultivated such as pumpkin and country-beans. Banana cultivation has been taken up at Sundar Colony with more than 450 sapl-

Barana Plantations
Sundar Colony

ings of the 'giant governor' type of bananas. It is expected that cultivation of banana will expand to other colonies. Banana cultivation is expected to be profitable and capital is expected to roll back to the Society's fund from the third year. Individual families cultivate pumpkin, brinjal, green chillies, 'ladies fingers', cucumber, etc. in their kitchen gardens.

- Livestock development in 38 colonies covering 3,815 people included provision of 10 calves, 200 goats, 25 milch cows, 200 poultry birds and 18 bullocks. Milk is being sold to local dealers against cash which is rolling back to the Society fund. Assistance for goatery and duckery has been given to Mirzapur Colony and the colony acquired ducks of improved variety as also goats. Eggs of ducks have started yielding some income while return from goatery is expected from the third year.

- Five looms have been provided to 25 people to take up weaving.

- 14 Cycle-rickshaws/hackney carriages have been provided to 70 people.

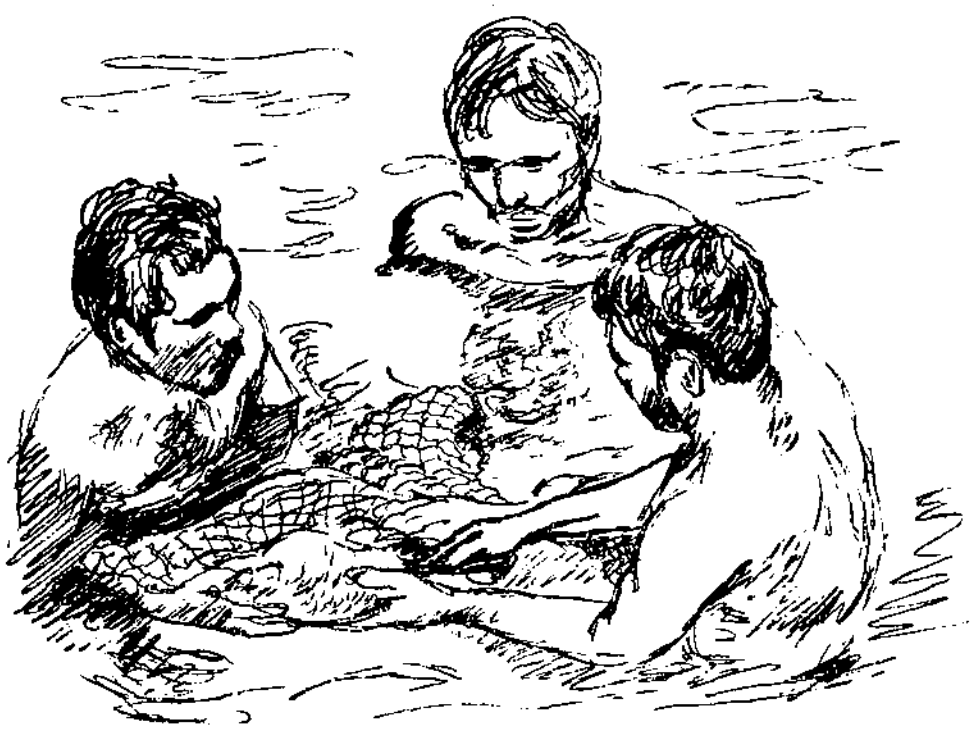
- 127 families have been given assistance to start petty businesses.

Medical Services include clinic activities, preventive activities through motivation and health education, mother and child health-care through immunization and motivation on family welfare/planning.

The clinic work is done through two clinics at Santhalpara Colony, Nadia District and Barjumla Clinic. Patients come to the clinics to get medical examination and advice. For supply of medicines against prescription, a patient pays 25 Paise. The collection goes to the Society and is used for purchase of medicines and financial assistance to patients in times of need. The medical subscription collected is administered by the Colony Society. Diseases treated are mostly simple cases of influenza, diarrhoea, dysentery, worms, skin diseases, etc. Serious cases are referred to Government Hospitals.

The Community Health Workers attached to the Colonies/Clinics make home visits and supply medicines in minor ailments, give tetanus toxoid to expectant mothers, supply iron, folic acid and other nutritive tablets. They also give triple antigen to children. They hold meetings with the mothers and discuss with them the need for observance of personal hygiene and cleanliness. The work of family welfare planning is done in close cooperation with local Government Health Centres and the medicines for immunization are obtained from the Health Centres at regular intervals.

Dotted as they are, all over the district of Murshidabad, the colonies pose a sizeable problem logistically, towards progress of community health. Family welfare is coming up satisfactorily and so is the reduction of incidence of communicable diseases.



Induced fish breeding

Health worker treats minor ailments on her home visits

But much remains to be done, including training of some of the health workers and probable community health workers. It is expected that by the end of 1983 a fairly comprehensive model of community health care would be established. In Santalpara Colony of Nadia district, a Mothers' Club has been formed and this Club is gradually building up its own fund. The fund is mainly utilised for financing medical emergencies. The Club is gradually expanding its membership. Incidence of malnutrition is declining and so is the birth and infant mortality rates.

Non-formal education was imparted to a total of 1,589 people during the year under review.

By the end of 1982 plans were underway to identify the settlements which could do without assistance from the LWS, so that the LWS can plan from 1983 to phase out from such advanced colonies and extend its services to a similar number of villages situated adjacent to the colonies. The LWS was also, at the end of the year, in the process of working out strategies for strengthening the relation between members of resettled colonies and neighbouring villages, in anticipation of the emergence of an enlarged integrated community.

SUNDERBAN PROJECTS

Progress in the resettlement of pavement dwellers' in Sunderban region was hampered once again in 1982, for want of suitable allotment of land. As a result, only follow-up activities were undertaken in Binodhpur Colony where 165 families were rehoused during the previous years. During the end of the year, however, hopes were revived with the possibility of obtaining suitable land on an island called Nayachar, for resettling one thousand families over the next few years.

The activities in Binodhpur were centred around finding ways and means to increase the employment opportunities of the people in addition to imparting primary education to the children and health services for all.

- Primary education was provided to a student strength of 164 with an average attendance of 93 percent.

- Training was imparted to a total of 75 people, in bee-keeping (50), weaving (15) and tailoring (10). At the end of the year 10 people were still under training in bee-keeping and 5 in tailoring. Out of the 15 people trained in weaving, 9 joined the Self Employment Centre and produced and marketed products worth Rs. 3,000.

- Out of five people who were trained previously in manufacture of lime, four were engaged in lime kiln and produced 13,925 kgs.

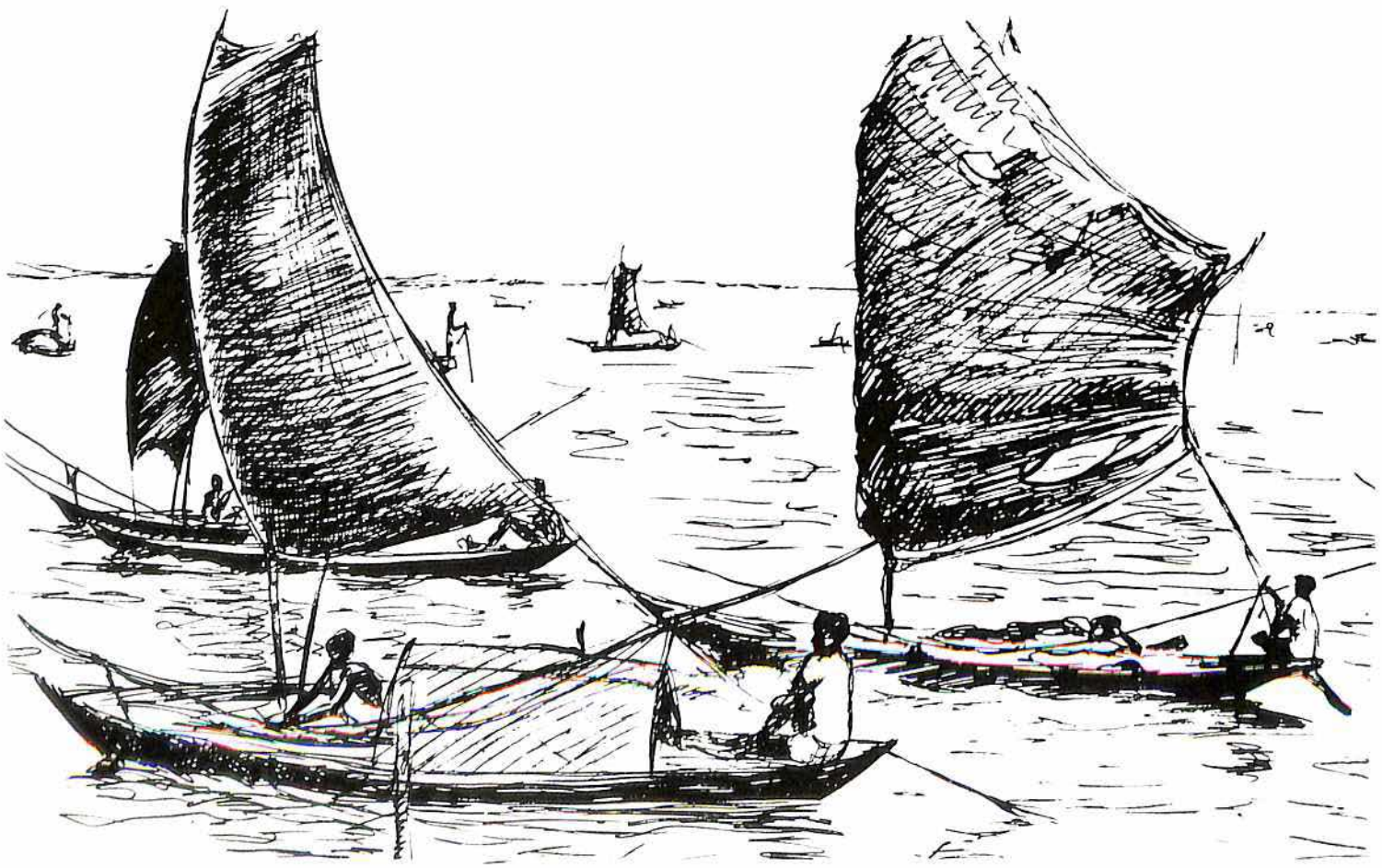
- Eight people who were engaged in production of shell grit for poultry feed, produced 21,213 kgs. of shell grit.

- With regard to agriculture, greater emphasis was given to kitchen gardening. All the 165 families were assisted with vegetable seeds, banana, coconut and casurina plants.

- 54 families who were provided two insulated ice boxes for preservation of fish, hired two mechanised boats for fishing. They were also provided with suitable nets for this purpose. Another 18 families formed six teams of their own for joint fishing and caught 1,823 kgs., the value of which was estimated at Rs. 8,400.

- The LWS, the Government and a

They "sail the ships of ambition . . . . . .



. . . . . and land at the harbour of success"

rural Bank coordinated with each other with a view to assisting most of the families in Binodhpur to take up self-help projects.

—Sagar Gramin Bank situated in the programme vicinity had sanctioned loan to the tune of Rs. 17,100 to 40 families. Of the total assistance for self-help projects during the year, 17 per cent came from the Bank.

—Subsidy from the Government amounting to Rs. 33,400 to 40 families, in terms of percentage of participation, works out to 33. Margin money given by the Government to the Scheduled Caste population and repayable by the people without interest through the Bank accounted for Rs. 16,500 (16 percent) benefiting 39 families.

—The LWS partook in this project by assisting 52 families with Rs. 34,000 (34 percent).

In the field of Health Services, the people themselves came forward to form a Health Committee. They selected a Community Health Worker who after receiving training, started working amongst them. That the people of Binodhpur have become health conscious was evident from the fact that the incidence of malnutrition and communicable diseases declined during the year. 50 percent of the eligible couples were under family welfare coverage and several others also expressed their desire to avail of the facilities provided. Since Binodhpur is a relatively isolated area, the Health team had to cater to most of the needs of the people.

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

The Development Communication Unit (DCU) consists of three divisions: Adult Literacy or Non-formal Education; Training, Workshops and Seminars (TWS) and the Media Centre which the LWS plans to establish next year.

During the year under review, the DCU has taken up necessary measures for motivating the target population and the staff members and arousing inspiration in them for upliftment of their socio-economic conditions. The DCU therefore,

- arranged TWS on different subjects on the basis of needs expressed by the people and the staff members,
- introduced non-formal education in place of adult literacy for all age groups instead of adults only as previously followed, and revised the primer and syllabus,
- undertook preparatory work for the establishment of a Media Centre, and
- engaged in limited research and documentation.

Training, Workshops/Seminars (TWS)

- For promoting income generation and diversification of employment a workshop on 'Soil Management and Irrigation' was arranged. A training course on poultry and another for mechanics, fitters and electricians was organised by other Agencies. These courses were attended by the target people.
- In view of the problems of soil erosion in the drought affected areas, a workshop on 'Soil Management and Irrigation' was considered to be very important for the people. Causes of erosion, its prevention, utilisation of underground and surface water, selection of crops for cultivation and allied matters were discussed in the workshop.
- A workshop on 'Integration and Allied Matters' followed by another one on 'Participation' was held for the staff members.
- With a view to strengthening the working of the LWS a workshop on 'Monitoring and Reporting' was arranged and a course on 'Bookkeeping, Accounting and Material Management' was also held.
- Development Communication is not a new concept, however, it is still not known to many. Therefore, to allow the fruits of development to reach the vast majority of the rural poor, appropriate media, tools and technologies, both traditional and modern, are being explored and employed where possible, by the LWS, in order to foster and promote national growth. With this objective in view, the LWS, in collaboration with three other Agencies, held a Seminar on Rural Communication in Calcutta.

A total of nine TWS were arranged by the LWS and 92 staff members and 63 from the target population participated. Another 14 TWS arranged by other Institutions were attended by 39 staff members and 19 people from the target groups.

Puppet and mime shows are considered a very powerful media for mass education and communication. Mr. C. S. Ghosh, an Adult Literacy Teacher from Murshidabad pro-

gramme, who has attained some expertise in this technique was deputed to present some shows in different programme areas on the following themes, as part of non-formal education:

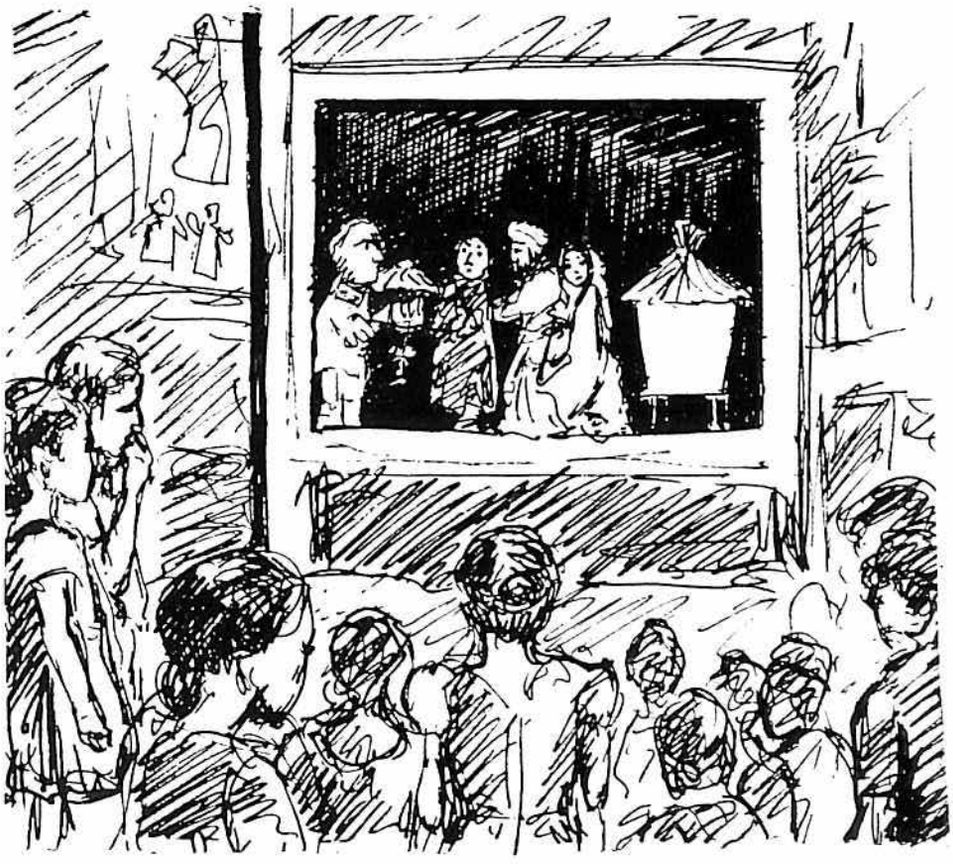
- adult literacy vis-a-vis eradication of illiteracy,
- public health and sanitation,
- maintenance of tubewells,
- effects of alcoholism,
- development of civic sense,
- integration.

The shows which visually dramatized the various themes were well received and proved an effective medium of education as the people themselves acknowledged.

"Self-help for self-reliance", is being encouraged among the target people. Mr. G. Bauri, an Adult Literacy Teacher in Jangal Mahal, and his students were able to procure books for Classes III and IV with the help of the villagers. Some of the neo-literates on their own initiative secured admission in a neighbouring school for formal education. Furthermore, this Centre with the help of the villagers purchased hurricane lanterns for use during class hours.

With a view to increasing the interest of the students it was felt necessary that the primer should contain dipthong letters and interesting short stories. Since the existing primer does not contain the latter, another part of the primer has been prepared with sufficient dipthong letters and interesting stories.

A new syllabus has been introduced which includes topical and vocational subjects besides literacy and numeracy. A large number of books on those subjects have been procured and distributed to the centres, so that the neo-literates who are mainly dependent on agriculture could attain better knowledge in their own profession. To cope with the additional subjects introduced, the duration of the course has been extended from 4 to 6 months.



Puppet and mime shows—a powerful communication media

To strengthen social and cultural integration, further emphasis has also been given to the following:

- encouragement of extra-curricular activities among students, neo-literates, parents and teachers,
- contribution of more articles and drawings by students and teachers to the 'Alo' (Light of Knowledge) magazine and for promotion of mobile libraries in various programme areas,
- attendance at refresher courses for teachers, both men and women,
- encouragement and support of rural libraries established by the people themselves, e.g. Santipur Colony at Nandajhar, West Dinajpur,
- training courses for men and women adult literacy teachers.

Non-formal education centres established in Ajodhya Hills and Balarampur were handed over to the Comprehensive Area Development Corporation for continuation. Similarly, some of the centres in Murshidabad district were handed over to another Institution. During the latter part of the year, 79 centres

The scroll reproduced, depicts a village meeting in session. The people were asked to deposit any excess grain for storage and use during the lean months. Two farmers deposited two sacks of grain each. Another meeting was held in the lean season. The people wanted paddy. The two farmers offered to loan paddy to them on the condition that they each return 5 kgs. interest for every 20 kgs. loaned. The people agreed to this. Another meeting was called after the harvest....the people repaid their loans and also brought in one sackful each of surplus grain for storage and future use.

This scroll was prepared by Nilmoni Tudu, a local tribal girl of Jangal Mahal, who trains women in tailoring. Stories and articles such as this one are included in the 'Alo' (Light of Knowledge) magazine for sharing with members of other target groups in different programme areas.

were functioning, besides 14 voluntary centres run in Murshidabad and Calcutta. The voluntary centres were assisted with teaching materials only. During the year under review a total of 1,854 (1,194 men and 660 women) attained neo-literacy.

Preparatory work for the establishment of a Media Centre in Calcutta is underway. The primary functions of the proposed centre will be:

- to establish a functional video-production unit which will be responsive to the needs of the LWS programme, such as preparing training materials or documentary films for a specific area,
- to increase the utilisation of media like magic lanterns, etc. which have been developed by other Institutions, and
- to revive traditional media such as puppet shows.

Continuous efforts have been made for documentation and diffusion of information through News letters and the quarterly publication of 'Alo' (Light of Knowledge) magazine. In addition, the following items were published during the year:

- Translation into Bengali of English version of 'Book-keeping on Consumer Cooperatives',
- a brochure on Water Resources and Rural Development,
- Book-keeping, Accounting and Material Management (in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta).

Table 1

Number of TWS Organised and Details of Participation

Item	Number Organised	Number of Participants & Percentage				
		Total Participated	LWS Staff		People/Others	
			No. of Participants	Percentage	No. of Participants	Percentage
Training Courses	38	566	214	38	352	62
Workshop	8	140	76	54	64	46
Seminar	28	471	293	62	178	38
Total	74	1,177	583	50	594	50

Table 1.1

Participation in Training Courses—According to Type

Type of Training	Number Arranged	Number of Participants & Percentage				
		Total Participated	LWS Staff		People	
			No. of Participants	Percentage	No. of Participants	Percentage
1. Social Worker	2	72	51	71	21	29
2. Livestock	2	42	11	26	31	74
3. Agriculture & Allied Matters	5	102	30	29	72	71
4. Income Generating Trades	2	65	9	14	56	86
5. Technical Know-how	6	50	15	30	35	70
6. Rural Health Management	2	13	3	23	10	77
7. Mass Education and Development Communication	9	126	27	21	99	79
8. Accounting Management of Rural Development	10	96	68	71	28	29
Total	38	566	214	38	352	62

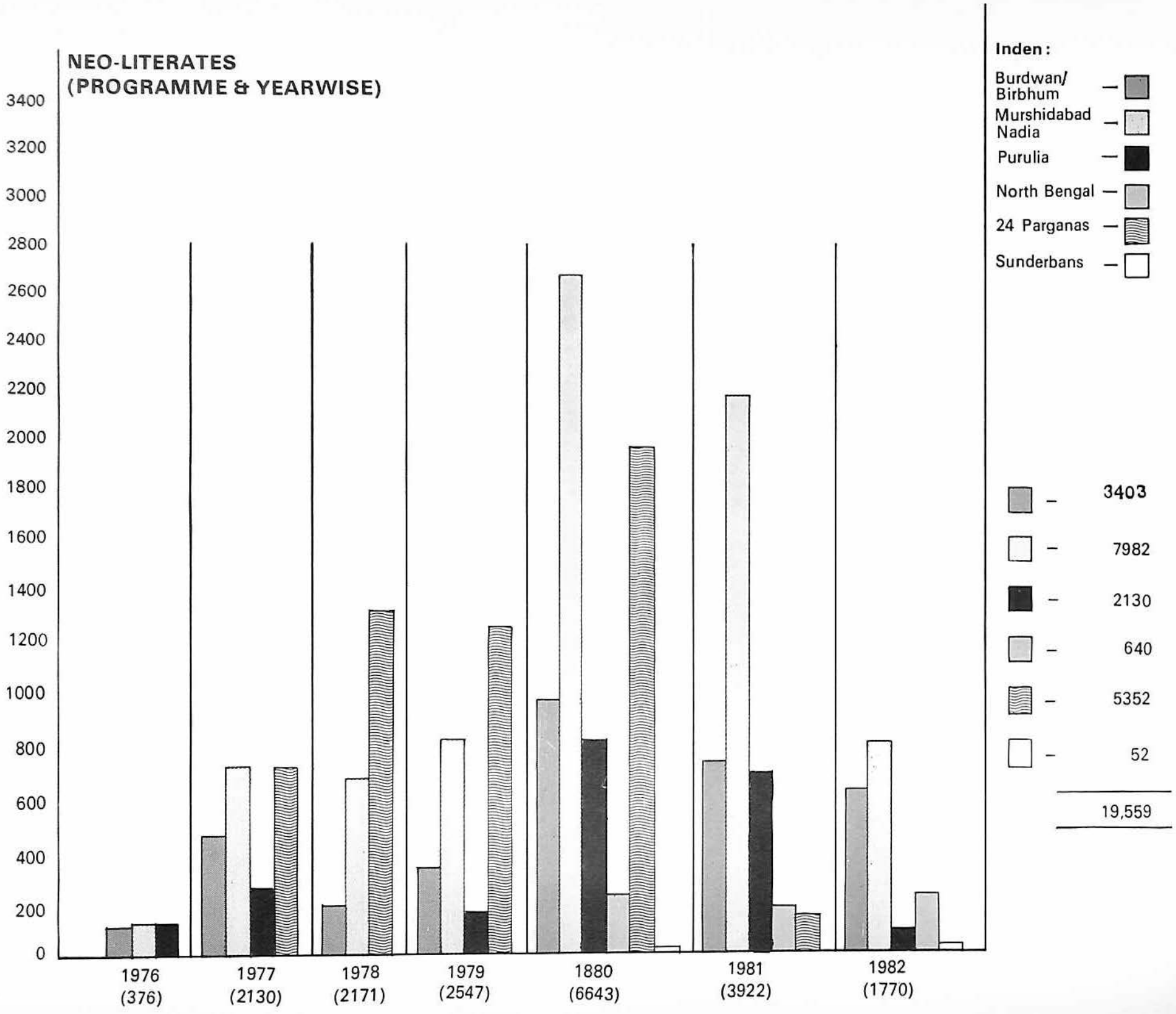

NEO-LITERATES
(PROGRAMME & YEARWISE)
3400
3200
3000
2800
2600
2400
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
1976
(376)
1977
(2130)
1978
(2171)
1979
(2547)
1880
(6643)
1981
(3922)
1982
(1770)
Inden :
Burdwan/
Birbhum
Murshidabad
Nadia
Purulia
North Bengal
24 Parganas
Sunderbans
3403
7982
2130
640
5352
52
19,559

Table 1.2

Participation in Workshop—According to Type

Type of Workshop	Number Arranged	Number of Participants and Percentage				
		Total Participated	LWS Staff		People	
			No. of Participants	Percentage	No. of Participants	Percentage
1. Water Resources	1	115	51	44	64	56
2. Self-help Housing	1	1	1	100	—	—
3. Focus on Children	1	2	2	100	—	—
4. Reporting Improvement of Feed-back	2	2	2	100	—	—
5. Communication	3	20	20	100	—	—
Total	8	140	76	54	64	46

Table 1.3

Participation in Seminars—According to Type

Type of Seminars	Number Arranged	Number of Participants and Percentage				
		Total Participated	LWS Staff		People/Others	
			No. of Participants	Percentage	No. of Participants	Percentage
1. Development Strategy and Management	18	213	146	69	67	31
2. Agriculture & Allied Matters	2	55	40	73	15	27
3. Housing Poor and Development	2	18	18	100	—	—
4. Water and Sanitation	2	4	4	100	—	—
5. Development Communication	2	159	63	40	96	60
6. Others	2	22	22	100	—	—
Total	28	471	293	62	178	38

MEDICAL SERVICE

"The effectiveness of the Health Programme could be greatly enhanced if the staff were to limit themselves to a clearly defined population and make an epidemiological study of the most prevalent health problems in each place. Having defined the area for which the clinic will be responsible, they should then proceed to invite community participation in each village which could be secured through formation of a health committee by the people themselves. Priorities would then be established by the health committee so that they would come to feel that it was their programme rather than one imposed upon them by some professionals from outside" (excerpts from a report of Dr. James Mcgilvray, Dr. Helen Gideon and Dr. Martin Scheel after their visit to the LWS Medical Service areas during the period from February 7-13, 1978).

The visit of this team four years ago was a turning point in the LWS health activities with the emphasis changing from mere clinical to comprehensive curative, preventive and promotive services.

When the concept of community health was first elaborated, no one took it seriously—many were bewildered and indicated that they had no idea what was meant; the community health workers did not exist and the people's inclination was one of dependency on the supporting agency. Though this attitude continues to prevail in some areas, in majority of the communities, the people have established their own health committees; the community health workers are gradually being identified as leaders and the people are slowly waking up to the fact that health care is their responsibility. They are actually beginning to like the idea.

In Santalpara Colony of Nadia district a young boy hurt himself and had to be taken to the hospital. His mother was so poor that she did not have money to buy the prescribed medicines. So she went to a Health Worker who recommended her case to the women's committee, which in turn sanctioned money for the medicines from the fund the women themselves had raised through contributions received from the community for the health care provided by the health team.

- In Salt Lake the Mahila Samiti (Women's Organisation) has decided to pay Rs. 20 each per month to the community health workers who have been trained in community health care and are equipped to launch a community health programme on their own. The same Mahila Samiti has also decided to help regularly some patients who suffer from Tuberculosis and other Chronic illnesses and are unable to pay for medicines.

- Far away in the Sunderbans the resettled families share their misgivings with the Doctor about the feasibility of community latrines and voice their opinion about alternative solutions.

Whether it is Salt Lake—a suburban area or Jangal Mahal—a rural tribal belt, the mothers, mostly illiterate, with children in their laps, drop in one by one at the under-fives-clinic, 'Road to Health' Card in hand for immunization and monthly weighing of their infants. Four years ago at the sight of the ambulance, the tribal women and children ran away to hide in the bushes for fear of injections. Today, these mothers and their children greet the health

The village clinic—more education and less medicines

Caring for Health

A tiny name "Sima"—meaning, limit. And on that sunny spring morning amidst the glory that is Ajodhya Hills, the embodiment of that name appeared to justify it. She looked, as if she had reached the limit. She seemed ready to give up.

She was twenty-three years old, unmarried, and an orphan. She had been through primary school and perhaps a couple of years more. A local girl, she worked for the LWS on a weekly stipend and assisted the health workers but did not give an impression of having a sound knowledge of community health. She was unpopular and reputed to be quarrelsome. She stood cringing in the centre of the large room. Fear and despair were chasing each other in the thin, dark face. The Government were taking over the hospital in the coming week. She would lose her job and had nowhere to go.

"Where do you stay?"

"With a distant relative."

"Could you come to Calcutta and see the medical officer?"

"Perhaps—yes."

"Is there anyone in Calcutta you can stay with?"

"An aunt, from my father's side."
"Would they let you stay with them?"

"I don't know."

Well, the rest can be compared to lunar phases from the new to the full moon. She came to Calcutta and convinced her aunt to allow her to stay for a few weeks. She was accepted for a training course in Community Health. One of the senior nurses at the training Institution became fond of her and offered to share her room with Sima. After four months she reported back to the office.

She seemed satisfied with her training. She had heard that LWS had offered her a health worker's position at one of its new projects and she was happy.

"Yes, Doctor, I realise it will be tough going for a young girl but I feel confident that I can cope. Of course, I will be able to motivate the people, increase their awareness of their health."

"You have got to feel one with them, understand their difficulties and be sincere."

"I think it's a lot easier for me to understand their problems and difficulties....I am still one of them. There is something I must say though —we need to care a little more, so mistakes can be avoided. So often, we don't seem to care enough. Care isn't that after all the important word?"

team with a nod, a smile of welcome, a glance of understanding.

A grandmother pulls at the shirt of the Doctor, insists that he inspect a patch on her skin and do something about it. The Doctor, a man from the city, in western clothes, symbol of the oppressor to her for years is no longer an alien to her today. She steps in the way of the Doctor and demands attention.

During the year under review, the medical services covered a population of 43,000 spread over seven regions as given below:

Sunderban Projects	
Binodhpur	1,000
Burdwan Projects	
Jangal Mahal	10,500
Calcutta Projects	
Entally	10,000
Ultadanga	6,500
Salt Lake	5,500
Murshidabad Projects	
Kalyani	3,000
Murshidabad	6,500
	43,000

All the activities were carried out by a team of 9 doctors and 22 health workers, who were placed in the seven regions. Their work was supplemented by 12 people from the target population, who had been trained in community health work. During 1983 more community health workers will be trained.

In spite of having narrated earlier people's receptivity towards health services, one must admit that people's participation in health is a very slow, tortuous and often frustrating process. This process is complicated further by the socio-cultural, logistic and administrative problems one has to encounter. Despite these handicaps, the LWS medical services are geared to meet the challenges ahead and move slowly but steadily forward.

An ounce of hurt now can prevent unlimited heartache later

Caring for the unborn

Statistical Analysis

Table I

Curative Services

Area	Number of Cases Treated								Total
	Adult				Under-five				
	Male	Female	Sub Total	% to Total	Male	Female	Sub Total	% to Total	
BURDWAN									
Jangal Mahal	1,216	1,575	2,791	69	669	574	1,243	31	4,034
CALCUTTA									
Salt Lake	934	1,580	2,514	70	610	477	1,087	30	3,601
Uttadanga	468	688	1,156	69	263	258	521	31	1,677
SUNDERBAN									
Binodhpur	948	868	1,816	64	528	508	1,036	36	2,852
NADIA									
Kalyani	506	601	1,107	64	327	286	613	36	1,720
MURSHIDABAD	693	859	1,552	66	466	350	816	34	2,368
Total	4,765	6,171	10,936	67	2,863	2,453	5,316	33	16,252

The figures quoted above indicate the number of diseases treated and not the number of persons who fell ill. In other words, one person coming to the clinic once with diarrhoea, a few months later with Eczema and a week later with Bronchitis has been entered thrice in the record. Two points are note-worthy with regard to Table I. Firstly, that the under-five children require special care is amply illustrated from the fact that though they constitute about 15 per cent of the total population, they account for 33 per cent of the diseases recorded and treated. Secondly, the population of Binodhpur Colony seem exceedingly vulnerable to diseases. The colony has a population of approximately 1,000 who have suffered from 2,852 cases thus giving a rate of 2·85 cases per person, per year. On the other hand, in Salt Lake, a population of 5,500 had 3,601 cases thus giving a rate of 0·65 per person annually. Assuming that an equal number of diseases were treated outside the clinic, the case rate in Salt Lake is 1·30 per person annually, which is still less than half the rate of Binodhpur Colony. It has, therefore, been decided to investigate the cause for this exceptionally high rate.

Table II

General Community Health Activities

Activities	Programme Areas						Total
	CALCUTTA		SUNDERBAN	BURDWAN	MURSHIDABAD/NADIA		
	Ultadanga	Salt Lake	Binodhpur	Jangal Mahal	Murshidabad	Kalyani	
Immunization	602	487	70	609	357	608	2,733
Care of Under-fives	107	106	180	168	25	84	670
Nutritional supplements	709	568	64	797	188	416	2,742
Home Visits	2,607	3,205	425	788	1,706	1,835	10,566
Delivery Cases	—	—	36	9	53	—	98
	4,025	4,366	775	2,371	2,329	2,943	16,809
Health Education (Group Meetings)	367	502	63	87	212	46	1,277

The figures given above are intended to give a general impression of the work being done. Murshidabad and Sunderban programmes commenced their integrated community health work rather late due to lack of immunization material and inadequacy of trained personnel besides other reasons. Therefore, community health activities for these two regions would appear to be rather low. Group meetings held in excess of 2,000 in Ultadanga and Salt Lake and almost 2,000 in Kalyani may apparently look rather high but since in all these places the families are living in compact areas, it was possible for two or even three teams to hold more than one group meeting each in a single day. Moreover, the meetings are all not necessarily related directly towards health matters. Many of them centred around vocational training, occupational guidance or plain counselling all of which influenced public health. Figures given for under-fives relate to the ones who had registered their names this year. However, the total number of under-fives attended can be roughly gauged from the 5,316 children's disorders handled this year (refer Table I).

Table III—Birth Record

Area	Births			Birth Rate
	Male	Female	Total	
BURDWAN				
Jangal Mahal	28	26	54	21·6
CALCUTTA				
Salt Lake	23	28	51	13·0
Ultadanga	33	39	72	16·0
SUNDERBAN	12	15	27	32·0
NADIA				
Kalyani	7	5	12	15·0
MURSHIDABAD	29	20	49	11·0

Compared with the national average of 35 per 1,000 all areas with the exception of Sunderban have progressed satisfactorily. However, some margin has to be kept for sampling and failure to report or detect cases. As against this, one has to take into account a general family planning coverage of about 50 percent and almost all the people regularly motivated by the health workers to adopt family planning measures. The high rate at Sunderban has been noted with a view to intensifying the family planning measures and the recent reports indicated that all mothers were willing to accept either temporary or permanent family planning measures.

Table IV—Infant Mortality

Area	Death between 0-1 year	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
BURDWAN		
Jangal Mahal	3	55·5
CALCUTTA		
Salt Lake	4	78·0
Ultadanga	2	27·0
SUNDERBAN	1	37·0
NADIA		
Kalyani	..	—
MURSHIDABAD	6	122·4

Apart from Murshidabad area, infant mortality rate in other areas has been well below the national average of 120 per 1,000 live births. However, because of the population not being very large relative to this particular measure, the possibilities of errors that the rates shown above may be both too high or too low are not ruled out. Therefore, this table should only be regarded as a rough indicator.

Table V

Nutritional Status of Under-Fives

Area	Total Number of Children	Normal	Malnutrition			% of 'high risk' =II+III
			I	II	III	
BURDWAN						
Jangal Mahal	214	62	93	53	6	27·5
CALCUTTA						
Salt Lake	667	214	207	190	56	36·8
Ultadanga	433	123	144	130	36	38·3
SUNDERBAN	341	189	98	36	18	15·8
NADIA						
Kalyani	81	50	8	14	9	28·4
MURSHIDABAD	120	35	49	24	12	30·0

The percentage of "high risk" of those children with moderate to severe malnutrition is roughly around 1/3rd of the total number of children barring Sunderban which seems to have done remarkably well in this regard. The LWS has continued to lay emphasis on improving the nutritional status of the children by pursuing a policy of regular follow-up at frequent intervals for the "high risk" children so that the children under this category could be reduced to an acceptable percentage in due course. An important aspect of the malnutrition is that it is not merely a health problem and therefore, cannot be removed by direct health measures alone. The total food supply must be increased and adequate time for the mothers to take care of the nutritional needs of their children is important. Under the circumstances, the LWS focuses on an integrated approach covering all aspects of development.

A healthy child is the Nation's future

FINANCIAL SUMMARY—1982

INTRODUCTION

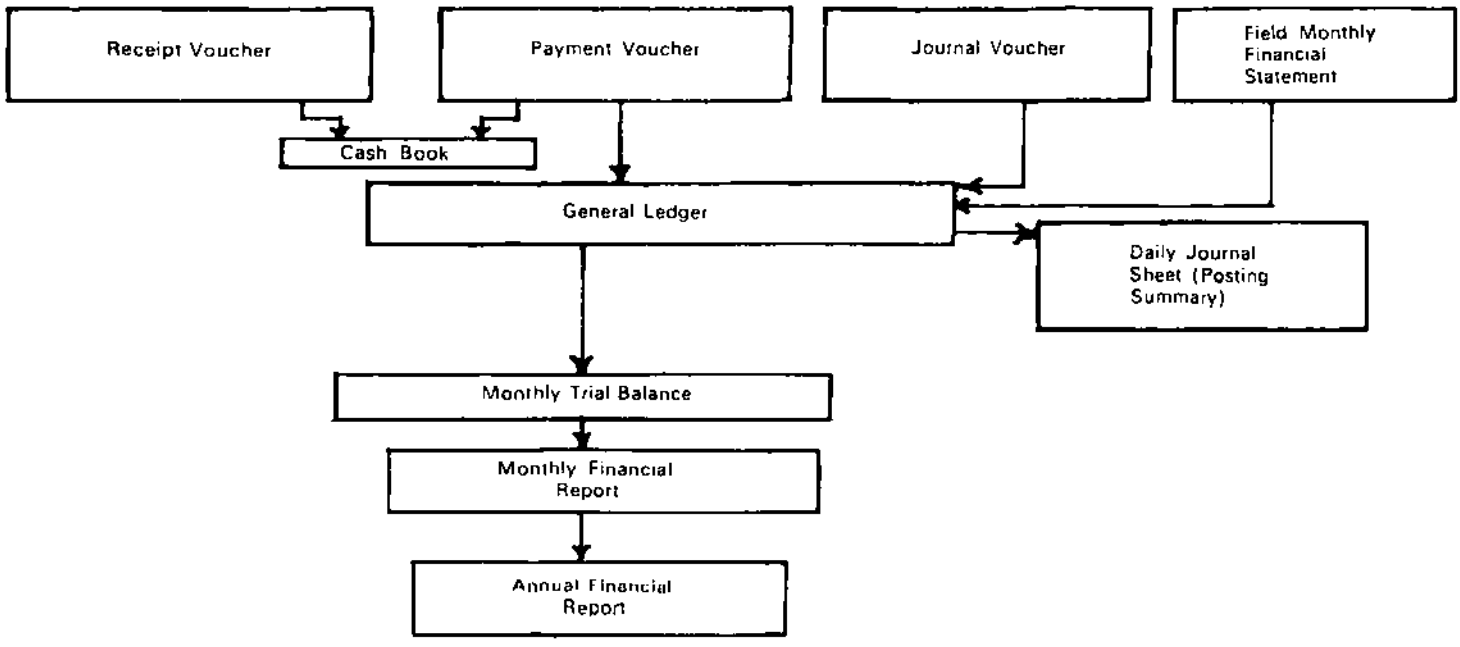
Initially the accounts and stores operations were handled by a two man team. From 1976 the LWS activities increased many times over. As a result, it became imperative to streamline the internal control and reporting systems of the finance office.

Presently there are seven specialised persons in the Central Finance Office in Calcutta who are responsible for overall control of LWS (Development) accounts and stores. Besides, nine field offices have a small finance unit each, usually comprising of Accountant, Store Keeper and Cashier who keep track of the field transactions.

Organisation

The organisational set-up of the Central Finance Office at Russell Street, Calcutta, includes the Finance Adviser (appointed by H.Q.-Geneva), Chief Accountant, Internal Auditor, Accounts Manager and three Accounts Assistants.

Broad Accounting Procedure



Functions

Among the various functions carried out by the Central Finance Office, the principal ones are outlined below:

— Preparation of annual and multi-year budget,

— Preparation of Monthly Financial Report for the Geneva Office,

— Maintenance of the Central Fixed Assets records and preparation of yearly reports for Geneva Office,

— Maintenance of Monthly Accounts submitted by the field offices,

— Reconciliation of the stock of stores on a quarterly basis,

— Reconciliation of the Cost Statement with the finance reports,

— Handling of personnel and administrative matters, relating to finance.

— Handling of tax matters,

— Introduction of new systems for better central control and.

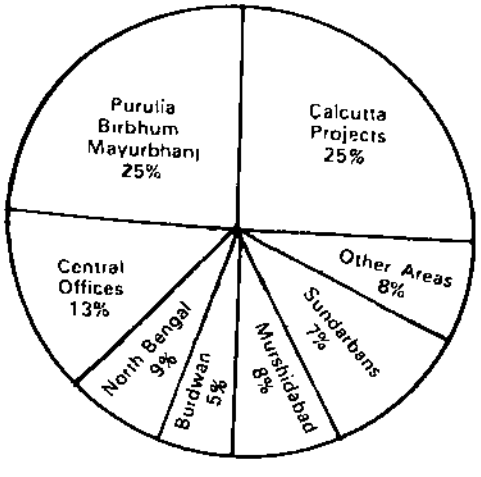
— Undertaking of physical verifications of LWS cash, stores and assets.

STATISTICS:

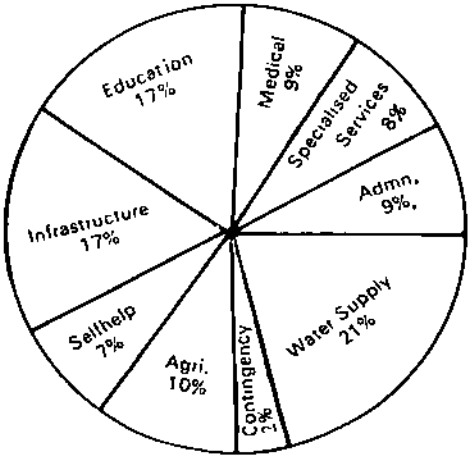
A few useful informations are given below to reveal the financial and other related aspects of the Organisation.

A. Clasification of 1982 expenditure

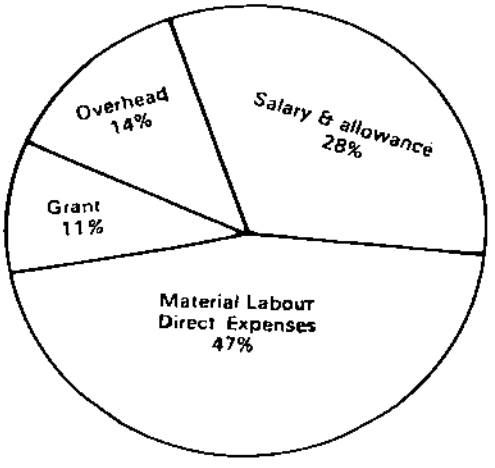
AREA-WISE



PROGRAM-WISE



COST-WISE



B. Volume of Transaction

Approximately 30,000 vouchers having 100,000 supportings have been prepared, entered and checked during 1982.

C. Development Program Staff

Strength	
Expatriates	3
Regular Employees	317
Part-time/Casual Employees	29
	349

D. Unit costs (estimated)

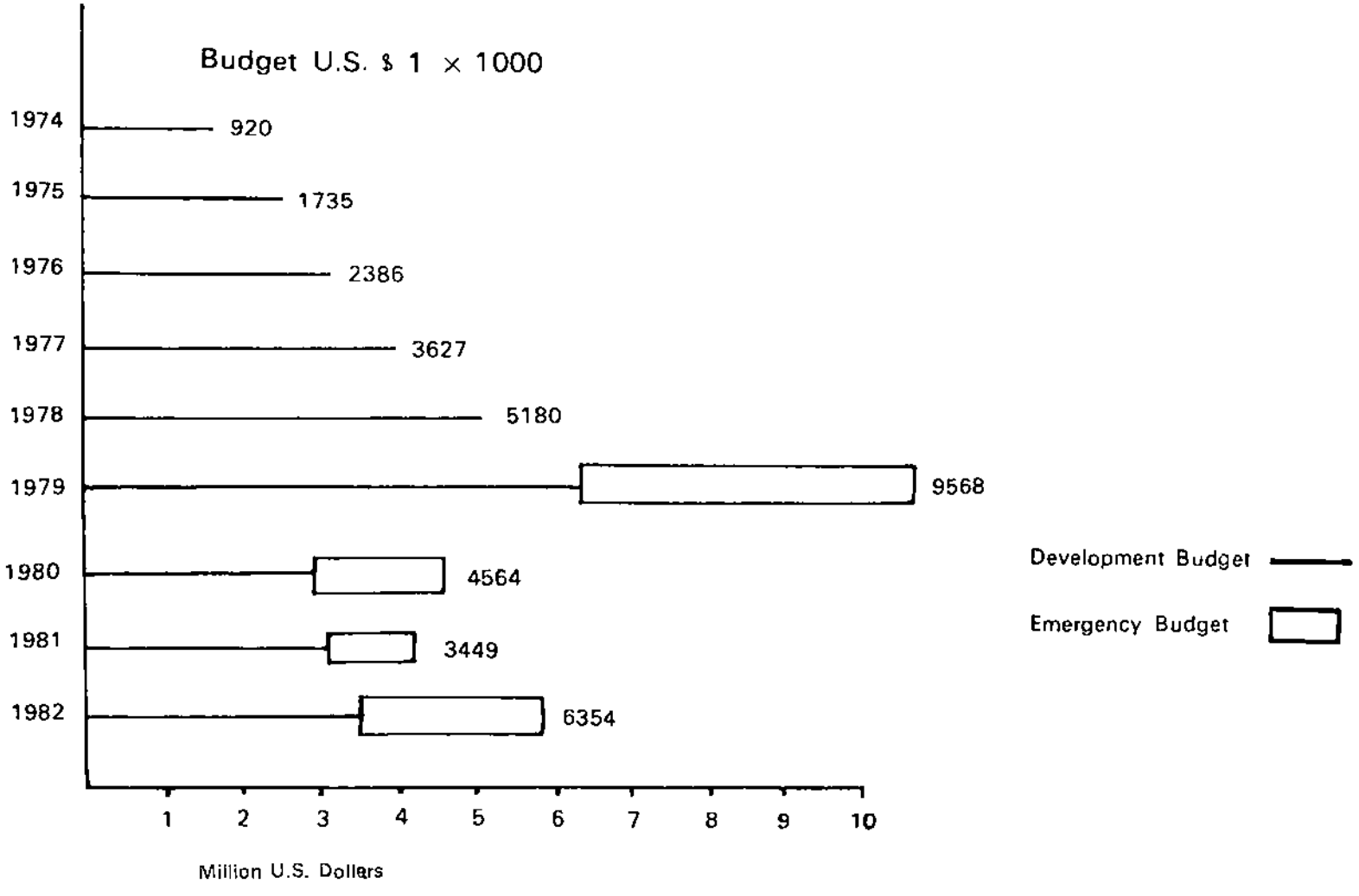
Tubewell (deep);	Rs. 18,000/- each
Shallow Tubewell	Rs. 2,000/- each
Village Housing	Rs. 2,500/- each
Urban Housing	Rs. 15,000/- each
Earthen dam	Rs. 70,000/-per km.
Drilling Cost	Rs. 63/- per ft.
School	Rs. 60,000/- each

E. Auditors/Consultants

M/s. Samir Bhattacharyya & Co. and
M/s. Price Waterhouse & Co.
Legal Adviser: Mr. K. L. Ghosh

F. Growth

The following table is based on both Development and Emergency budget figures.



LWS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.82

Expense Category	(Rs.)	(US $)
Program Operation	1,904,730	201,251
Planning, Research, Evaluation & Monitoring	367,004	38,896
Engg. & Technical Services	134,439	14,296
Water Resources Projects	3,680,065	392,694
Burdwan Projects	970,593	103,138
Purulia Projects	1,327,322	142,156
Calcutta Projects	4,543,088	480,103
North Bengal Projects	1,872,234	198,716
Murshidabad Projects	1,707,671	180,922
Sunderban Projects	1,502,331	159,384
Development Communication	805,408	85,567
Medical Projects	255,438	26,977
Pavement Schools	254,500	27,261
Hooghly District Rural Development	108,000	11,298
School Construction	144,000	15,063
Housing Infrastructure	139,060	14,546
Contingencies	331,150	34,939
Total Expenditure :	20,047,033	2,127,207
Transfer of funds to NELC Development Work	1,652,778	174,960
Total Fund Outflow :	21,699,811	2,302,167

Note: Expenses for 1982 Emergency Operations totalling Rs. 9,748,050 (US $ 1,028,684) is shown in the separate report of the Emergency & Rehabilitation Unit.

A Farewell

As many of you know, my wife and I will be leaving India within a short time after 35 years of service in this country. This is, therefore, the last report being sent out under my name. We made India our second home, having spent the greater part of our lives here. India will continue to be our second home as long as we live. I hope to continue serving India in a different way when we return to Norway, by devoting my time to writing. It is a dream I have had to shelve aside many times in the past.

We still remember when we arrived as young Missionaries in Shillong, the erstwhile capital of Assam. We had received an invitation to the Governor's House. I have never forgotten the words the Governor, Sir Akbar Hydari said to us in parting, "I hope India will be good to you." As the time comes to leave India after these many years of service, we can look back with joy on the past and say without hesitation, "India has been good to us".

While the thought of leaving this great land and our many friends and colleagues causes us pain, we take heart in the hope that we shall visit again. I would like to personally thank each and every member of our staff and those who have worked closely with me for their wonderful spirit of dedication, their ability to weather the storms and continue to work together as one family, united and strong. I personally thank our friends in the Government for their unfailing support and co-operation at all times.

I will be handing over the LWS India programme to the incoming Director, Mr. A. Larsen, in the month of April, 1983. Mr. Larsen is not new to India, having been here for 12 years already. I extend a warm welcome to him and Mrs. Larsen. I am confident he will ably take over the leadership of the Organisation, bringing to the task an eager mind combined with a strong sense of justice in the service of the people. I trust you will extend your whole-hearted support and cooperation to him in all respects. While wishing him all the best in his new assignment, Brit and I take this opportunity, though with sadness in our hearts, to wish you all God's blessings in the future while we say, "farewell".

Olav Hodne

January, 1983

OLAV HODNE

THE EXECUTIVE

Main Office

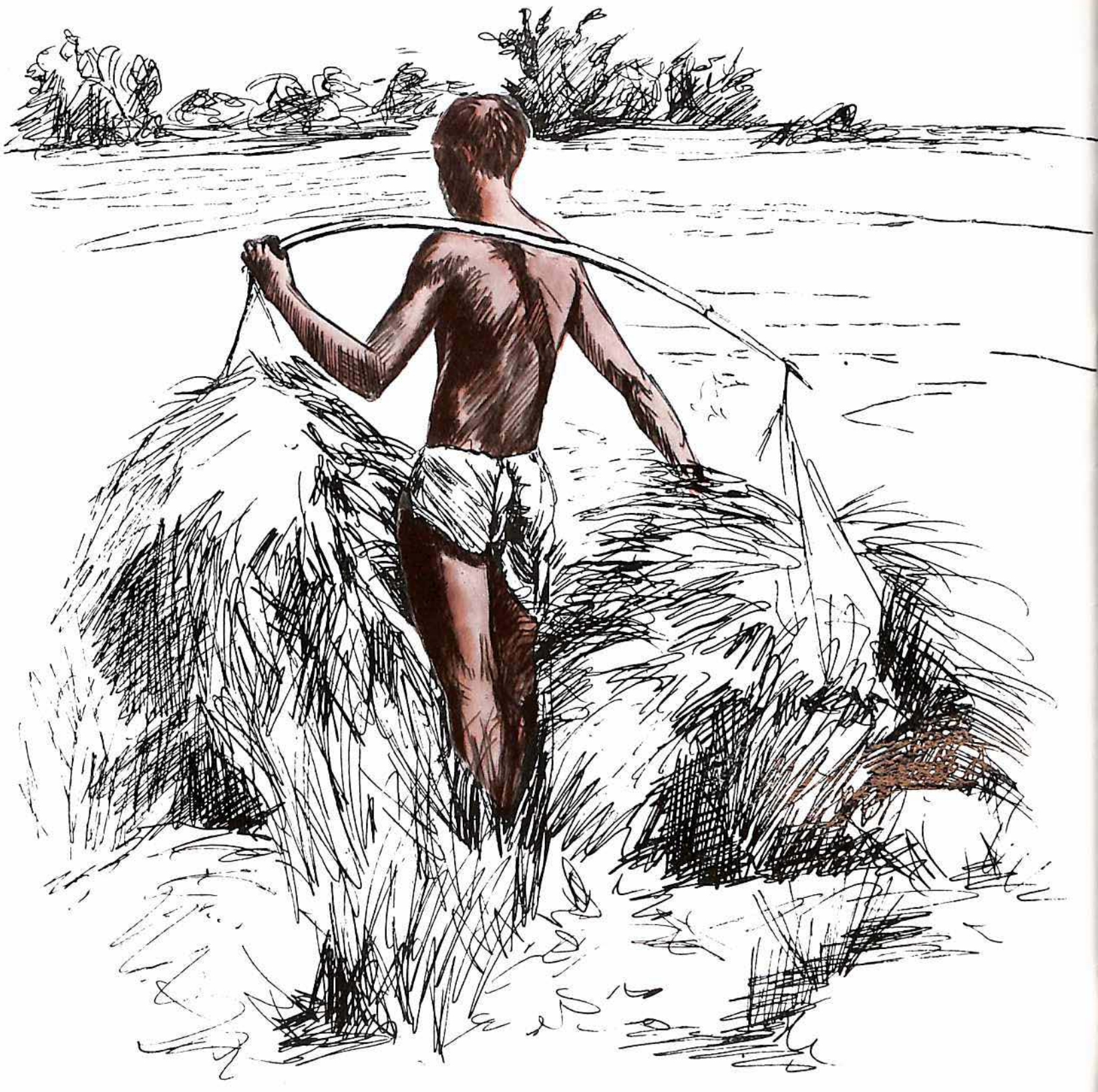
Director	—	Dr. Olav Hodne
Associate Director	—	A. Larsen
Deputy Director	—	V. S. C. Bonarjee
Programme Secretary	—	S. J. Nathan
Finance Adviser	—	I. Rantakari
Chief Accountant	—	A. Roychoudhury

Programme/Project Offices (Development)

Burdwan/Birbhum	—	P. K. Ghosh, *Programme Coordinator*
Calcutta	—	N. K. Saha, *Field Administrator*
Development Communication	—	T. K. Ray, *Seminar Organiser*
Engineering & Technical Services	—	K. Roy, *Technical Adviser*
Medical Services	—	Dr. B. Sen, *Programme Coordinator, Health*
Murshidabad/Nadia	—	V. S. C. Bonarjee, *Field Administrator*
North Bengal	—	S. C. Roy, *Field Administrator*
Sunderban	—	J. Simon, *Field Administrator*
Water, Health & Agricultural Trident (WHAT)	—	D. Roychoudhury, *Programme Coordinator*

Emergency & Rehabilitation Unit — P. C. Joseph, *Emergency Officer*

Note : Emergency activities are covered under a separate report.



Operated by the Lutheran World Federation/World Service, Geneva

Produced by Lutheran World Service (India)
Cover and Design : Muriel Nathan
Printed at Sree Saraswaty Press Ltd.
(Under West Bengal Govt.'s Management)
Calcutta-9